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MAY 1958

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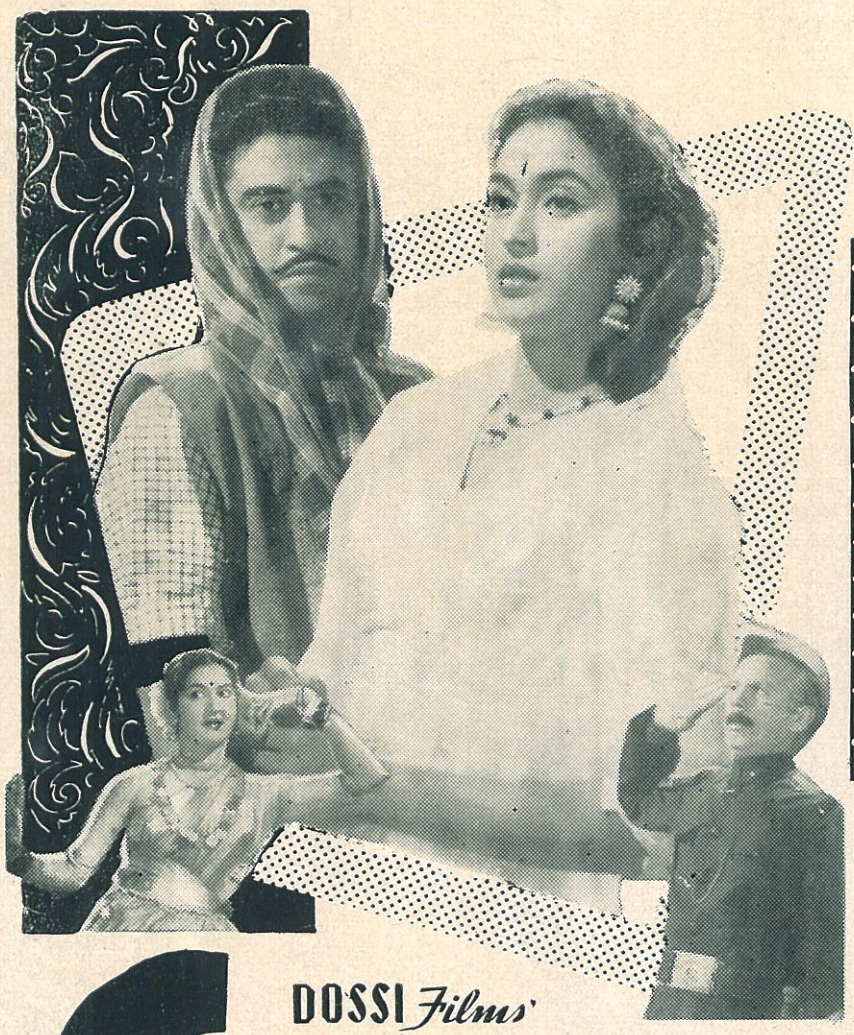

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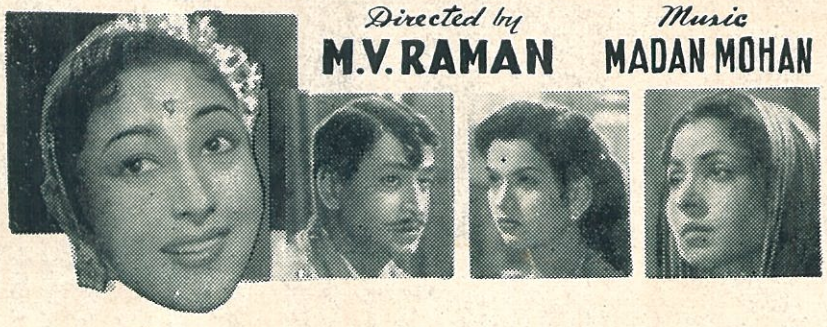

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Morarji's Great Opportunity

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Morarji Desai as our new Minister of Finance. He is the first Congress stalwart to occupy this all-important post in our fast-changing politics and economy. Our previous Finance Ministers were not Congressmen. They were wolves in sheep's clothing—people who had joined the flock to share either the profits or the glamour of office.

Morarji Desai is a well-tried Congressman with 28 years of his life dedicated to the service of the people. Out of these he has spent over 5 years in British jails. He has thus passed through the acid test of patriotism. Morarji Desai is a controversial figure. He is sharp, blunt and obstinate. When in temper he doesn't mince words. But he is essentially a just and honest man. In his impulse Morarji makes mistakes sometimes as all human beings do, but once they are brought home to him he immediately makes amends. Under his stern exterior Morarji is a man of a soft and generous heart. Sometimes his generosity of heart runs away with his good sense and we see the wrong type of people being benefited by his essentially humane outlook. Morarji has certain moral fads. One of them is prohibition. He is convinced that prohibition is essentially good for the people. He doesn't care whether it can be successfully implemented or not. He feels that a beginning of a good thing must be made some time and he doesn't bother about the practical difficulties in the way. No one can convince Morarji about the dismal failure of prohibition. He has assumed a self-righteous attitude in so far as prohibition is concerned and he has convinced his other Congress colleagues. We can, therefore, do nothing about it howevermuch we may agree with Morarji that alcoholism is bad and feel that attempting to remove it from society by penal laws is not the right process.

And yet with all his moral fads and human imperfections, Morarji is one of the few men in the Congress on whom we can rely at all times. His very obstinacy becomes a virtue in moments of national crisis. Morarji is a single-minded man on a single track and fortunately for our people his track is sprinkled with lofty and patriotic ideals. Morarji's rigorous simplicity of personal life has became proverbial. Some say that he is rehearsing his mind to become another "mahatma". That is a noble pursuit but let us straightaway state that Morarji will never become a saint. He is too colourful a personality to clothe his mind with the ashes of asceticism and put the clock back a thousand years. Besides, no man from Bulsar has yet become a saint and no one ever will. Bulsar is a little colony of dominating individualists who think that the world's circumference cannot be bigger than that of their own head. Every man from Bulsar is, therefore, another Morarji Desai, perfect in himself and even God has to play the second fiddle in that little town on the frontier of Gujarat and Maharashtra. All this leaves Morarji a passionate patriot who has dedicated his life to the people and easily the best administrator we have in

A young man in love soon thinks the world to be hostile if society puts a distance between him and his sweetheart. Here is Dilip Kumar wondering why people should be so mean in separating lovers in "Yahudi", a sensational love tale directed by Bimal Roy.

the country today. Even Morarji's enemies will grant him that.

This article is therefore addressed to the just, the honest, the generous and the courageous in Morarji Desai. The burden of our tale is income taxation—a subject which is not new to Morarji who was a revenue man long before some of the present lords of the Central Board of Revenue cut their milk-teeth. Let us hope Morarji reads this article with an open and unprejudiced mind and if he is convinced of the truth of what we say let him dis-

We cannot understand why Indians go so crazy over Hollywood's Russells and Monroes seeing that Idli-eaters of the South can also produce better weight-carriers of beauty. Padmini brings a rare excitement to the screen in "Raagini", a sensational romance produced by Ashok Pictures.

play the courage and enterprise to do justice to the citizen. All that we want is equity and justice.

But before we proceed with our comment on the present Income Tax Act and its none-too-praiseworthy administration, let us make it clear to Morarji Desai that we feel, like him, that just taxation is an absolute necessity to run a State—be it democratic, "Welfare" or Communistic—in our present civilization. We do not even quarrel here with our present tax structure, which, though unreasonably crushing and versatile still finds some justification in our ideal of building a "Welfare" State. We are one with our Congress Government in its aspiration to distribute our nation's wealth on a more equitable basis and achieving this end with the instrument of taxation. It is patent in our present set-up of society that too few a people have too much of the wordly goods at the expense of millions who do not get even a square meal a day. We agree that this economic imbalance must be quickly eradicated from society if our nation is ever to progress and prosper. We also feel that every citizen must pay his just taxes and unequivocally condemn those who indulge in the anti-social and unpatriotic methods of tax evasion.

Our main quarrel is with the Indian Income Tax Act as it stands today and its devilish administration by, if we may be excused for saying so, a majority of corrupt and vindictive officers.

The present Income Tax Act was first enacted in 1922 by the British. It was enacted by the foreign rulers for their slaves. The law, therefore, naturally lacked equity and justice, the main idea of the rulers being to extract as much money from their slaves as possible and as expeditiously as possible. This law in which tax and equity were utter strangers served our erstwhile masters well. The penal provisions of this Act were such as to put a man in prison for one day for every rupee that he owed to the State by way of Income Tax, whether justly assessed or not, the Income Tax Department being the sole judge of the justice of the assessment.

On 15th August 1947, our Congress rulers inherited this Act. It was one of the legacies of our freedom. They accepted it without any demur—as if a law that was good enough for slaves was good enough for free men. On the other hand they passed over 18 amending acts to make the original legacy a perfect instrument of inequity and injustice.

As the law stands today a single man, the Income Tax Officer, becomes the kingpin of the whole show. This is usually a junior officer drawing a salary between Rs. 400 and Rs. 1,000 per month. He is the Daniel and the Solomon of Income Tax administration and has to use his immature sense of justice and small fund of wisdom while playing the triple role of the policeman, the judge and the hangman. As perfection is not a human virtue and as the human mind is never free from prejudices, it is obvious that much too much power is concentrated in the hands of a single individual—a power that not only tends to make the man corrupt but also vindictive if his own desires are frustrated. In a department that deals in a revenue of crores of rupees every year, even a tyro can realize that the concentration of so much power in the hands of one man cannot possibly guarantee honest and scrupulous administration.

For the benefit of our new Finance Minister, who has no time to go through the voluminous and complicated law of income taxation, let us review briefly the extensive power which this single individual enjoys.

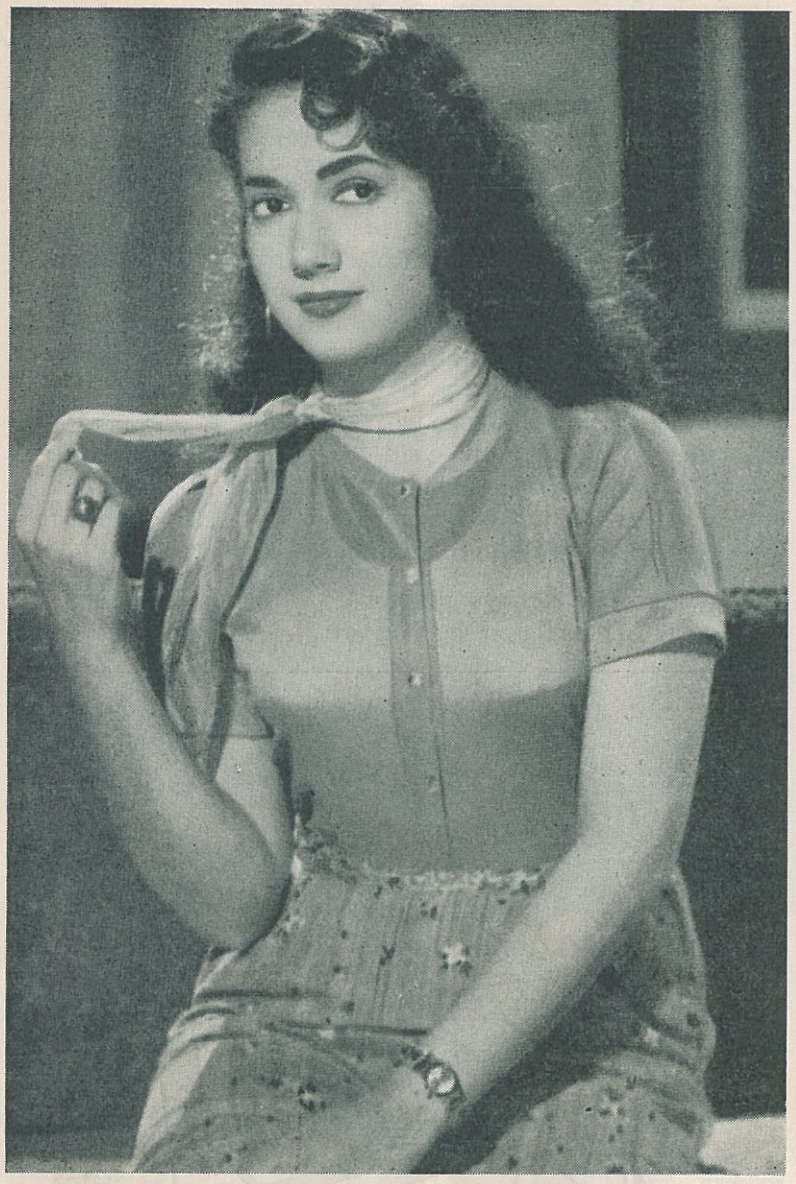
Under the present Income Tax Act, the Income Tax Officer—usually a young and immature graduate—has tremendous powers—mandatory, discretionary and penal. Apart from the novel and numerous twists he can continuously give to the sections describing taxable incomes in an effort to draw every shining rupee within the ambit of taxation, the Income Tax Officer can insist upon deduction of tax at source under Section 18; demand advance payment under Section 18A; ask for information about dividends, certificates and interest under Sections 19A, 20 and 20A; demand annual return under Section 22; assess for his own sweet satisfaction under Section 23; thrust upon the assessee his own "best judgement" assessment under Section 23(4); make provisional assessment in a summary manner in advance of regular assessment and without right of appeal to the assessee under Section 23B; impose penalty upto 1½ times the

tax amount on an imaginary charge of concealment and according to his own arbitrary definition of concealment and notions of procedure under Section 28; demand dues —both real and arbitrarily imposed—within 24 hours if necessary under Section 29; open previous cases up to 8 years on mere suspicion and prejudice under Section 34; compel any man or woman, whether sick or dying, to attend his office personally and give evidence on oath suitable to his own time and design under Section 37 and then proceed to hang the assessee; seize any books of accounts and retain them as long as he likes disrupting the business of the assessee under Section 37 (2); demand false information from any man hostile to the assessee and use this information to the detriment of the assessee under Section 38; extend or deny his sweet "discretion" to an assessee if found in default of payment of tax under Section 45; levy as much penalty as the tax amount at his own sweet "discretion" under Section 46 (i); turn the penalty-levying job into a cat-and-mouse game by enhancing the penalty from time to time according to his whims and sweet "discretion" under Section 46(IA); forward a certificate to the Collector and insist upon him to collect the tax by all coercive methods such as attachment and auction of assets and imprisonment of the person of the assessee under Section 46(2); seize the salary of the assessee and stop his normal livelihood under Section 46 (5); attach any outstandings, freeze bank accounts and seize any other visible assets of the assessee under Section 46 (5A); make the game exciting, tantalizing and torturous by using the following unlimited and timeless power: "The Income Tax Officer *may* at *any time* or from *time to time* *amend* or *revoke* any such notice or extend the time for making any payment," under Section 46 (5A); grant or refuse a tax-clearance certificate to any person leaving India even on a short health visit or deny a certificate for legitimate import purposes under Section 46A; recover all discretionary and arbitrary additions and penalties as additional tax arrears with all the coercive and torturous methods at his command under Section 47. There are many more powers—emphatically mandatory and entirely discretionary—under various sections bestowed on this little kingpin of the Income Tax Department. We have given above only the main powers which can turn any decent man into a veritable Frankenstein of law and power.

"All power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely", writes Lord Acton in his "History Of Freedom". The Income Tax Officer has wide, wild and absolute power. And the power to tax is the power to destroy. It is a power that pushes a good and patriotic citizen into unnecessary conflict with his own State. In India this absolute power is placed in the hands of young college colts having little education, less experience and flighty ambitions. Can Mr. Morarji, who has left 62 summers behind and who is a man of wide and practical experience of the world, honestly tell us that this unlimited and unbridled power does not corrupt the Income Tax Officers of the State? Power pollutes whatever it touches. How long can the raw material that is found in our Tax Department resist the temptations of unbridled power and not use it for profit and perversion? Let every one honestly face this question.

Add to this unbridled power the slogan of the Tax Department which is dinned into the ears of the Officers: "Act in the interest of Revenue"—which in simple language means: Collect more taxes by hook or by crook. As if all this is not enough tax collections are distributed in zonal and sub-zonal annual quotas and each officer is given a certain amount to create and collect as his annual quota of taxes. On this annual quota, which is constantly increased from year to year, the Income Tax Officer's promotion is made dependent. The quota and slogan thus provide a constant goad to the Officer. Unbridled power and wicked human nature do the rest. Is it therefore any wonder that our tax collection work is assuming more and more frightening faces from day to day?

An example always illustrates a theme better. Let us once again take a case known to us all. For 10 years,



There is more cunning in one eye of a woman than in a jungle of foxes. Shakila, a charming maiden, gives an excellent account of her inherent talent in "Hathkadi", a social theme produced by Dhanwant Shah.

from assessment year 1941-42 to assessment year 1950-51, Baburao Patel was taxed on an average annual income of Rs. 33,651|- and an annual average tax of Rs. 5,800|- was collected from him. In the assessment year 1951-52, the assessment for which was made in 1956, Baburao Patel was suddenly taxed on a fantastic annual income of Rs. 2,56,167|- and a tax demand of Rs. 1,76,529|- was made.

This fantastic tax picture was produced by the Income Tax Officer firstly by holding the land which belonged to Baburao's two wives in his hand and adding the profit made by the ladies on the sale of a part of the land to Baburao's income, secondly by disallowing a substantial part of a proved loan which Baburao had taken and calling it income and thirdly by adding an arbitrary amount as profits made by Baburao by blackmailing producers.

The first item was arbitrarily assumed to be of the magnitude of Rs. 85,000|-. The second item was a loan of Rs. 90,000|- taken on hundies and repaid by cheques. The I.T.O. accepted the loan as proved but disallowed Rs. 60,000|- from it saying that Baburao did not need this money and he "must have taken it" for some other purpose. The onus in law to prove that purpose falls on the Department. The Department did not care to acquit this responsibility and basing its decision on a "must-have" presumption turned a proved loan into an arbitrary income. The last item was of Rs. 50,000|- allegedly earned by Baburao by blackmailing film producers and threatening them with bad reviews.

In the case of the first item—a supposed profit of Rs. 85,000|- in a land transaction—it was necessary for the Income Tax Officer to hold a judicial inquiry into the beneficial ownership of the land. He ought to have found out who paid for the land and whether those who paid for it had any resources of their own. The Income Tax Officer never even gave an inkling to Baburao Patel's tax consultant that the property was going to be taxed in Baburao's hands. It was a dirty and surreptitious method of taxation. Only when the assessment order was received did Baburao and his tax consultant realize that a dirty trick had been played upon them. When the case went into appeal, the Appellate Assistant Commissioner, a willing stooge of the Commissioner dependent on the Commissioner for his transfer and promotion, did not admit the voluminous evidence of the true ownership of the land on the technical ground that this evidence was not submitted at the I.T.O. stage. He brushed aside the argument that the I.T.O. had not given even an inkling that he was deciding the ownership of the land or that he was taxing the same in the hands of Baburao. He did not even care to go into the official record to verify the truth of what the assessee stated. The same technique of avoiding the issue "in the interest of Revenue" was adopted by the Appellate Tribunal with the result that a property which rightfully belonged to the two ladies was wrongly taxed in the hands of their husband.

Baburao's two wives Sushila Rani and Shirinbai had their own proved resources. Sushila Rani had paid taxes on an earned income of Rs. 3 lakhs while Shirinbai had been given over a lakh of rupees by her father-in-law as stated in his will made on September 23, 1951, apart from her other savings. The legal documents stood in their names. All the Government records showed their names as owners. They were in possession of the land and its title deeds. They paid the taxes and even the Income Tax Department had accepted the title deeds of this property as security for payment of Sushila Rani's own taxes when she was let down by the producers, who had not paid her taxes in spite of an agreement to do so in respect of her work in two motion pictures, and she had to pay the same. There was other voluminous documentary and independent sworn evidence proving the intention of the parties to buy a land and build a residential house for the ladies with their own money. All this evidence was not even looked into and rejected summarily with the result that the case has now to go to the High

Court. The first vicious act of the Income Tax Officer was persisted in by the higher officers "in the interest of Revenue" and justice was denied not only to Baburao but also to the rightful owners of the property who were not a party to the assessment proceedings.

Regarding the second item of the loan of Rs. 90,000|-, the Department agreed that a loan was taken by Baburao from one Bhagwandas Raheja against hundies. Raheja confirmed this loan in his evidence and also stated that he had been repaid by cheques drawn on Imperial Bank of India. Out of this loan the Income Tax Officer allowed Rs. 30,000|- and disallowed Rs. 60,000|- saying that the loan "must have been taken" for some purpose. He did not accept the purpose submitted by Baburao. He could not find another purpose, though it was his duty to do so. But whatever the purpose how could a loan ever become an income, particularly a loan that had been paid by cheques through a bank? This perversity of decision persisted right up to the Appellate Tribunal "in the usual interest of Revenue" and this matter has again to be taken to the High Court.

The third item was of Rs. 50,000|- an amount alleged to have been collected as blackmail money by Baburao from various film producers threatening them with bad reviews. If the I.T.O., had only counted the microscopically small number of good reviews appearing in "filmindia", his argument could have been easily answered. A man who is supposed to have made Rs. 50,000|- in a year in this manner would have his magazine full with all good reviews. But in "filmindia" one has to wait for years to read a good review as one has to wait for years to get a really good picture deserving a good review. That apart, voluminous documentary evidence from all leading producers was submitted to show that no one had ever paid blackmail money to Baburao. Baburao's articles, challenging one and all and offering a penalty of Rs. 25,000|- to anyone who pointed out even one instance of blackmail, were also submitted. But all this evidence was summarily brushed aside by the Income Tax Officer and an amount of Rs. 50,000|- added on mere suspicion. The suspicion continued to haunt the Appellate Assistant Commissioner and he confirmed the assessment "in the interest of Revenue." It was at the Appellate Tribunal, that, in a moment of weakness, the Chairman summarily rejected this item which was hanging in air on a thin hair of malicious suspicion and gave Baburao a relief of Rs. 71,203|- in tax demand.

Not to be outdone by this tax remission, the Income Tax Officer charged Baburao with *concealment* of income and levied a crushing penalty of Rs. 50,000|- under Section 28(1)(*c*). Where was the "concealment" in Baburao's tax matter? The property was openly bought by his wives. The house was openly constructed by them. Photographs of the house-warming ceremony were openly published in "filmindia". 2,500 guests were openly invited for this ceremony. Where was the "*concealment*"? In the matter of the loan of Rs. 90,000|-, the same was openly taken, credited to the bank account, paid back through the bank account and openly declared before the I.T.O. Where was the alleged "concealment"? The only "concealment" in the whole affair is the devilish design of the I.T.O. who concealed his intention of being vindictive under the garb of duty. An arbitrary difference of opinion based on arbitrary additions by the I.T.O. is not "concealment" on the part of the assessee.

Whatever the ultimate decisions of the higher courts, this fantastic tax picture contrived by the malicious mind of the Income Tax Officer gave him the necessary scope to use the torturous instruments of a tyrannical law to his heart's satisfaction. In our last issue we have given the full story of the grim Man Hunt through which Baburao has been going. It is no use repeating this tragic tale in which a man has been deprived of his birthright to earn an honest livelihood and is being constantly threatened with imprisonment because of the fantastic and arbitrary assessment made by an irresponsible officer of the Income Tax Department.

Baburao's tax picture for the assessment year 1951-52 is so patently false and distorted not only by comparison

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Many people go to the races for such "mares" and what they often win on the four-footed ones they lose later by backing the two-footed ones. But these pretty ones often mislead even the horse. Let us see what pretty Nalini Jaywant is about in "Bombay Race Course", a social theme produced by P. R. Films.

with the previous ten years but with the next five years in which, again according to the Income Tax Department, the annual income varies from Rs. 39,000|- to Rs. 67,000|- per year. The question which even a tyro cannot miss is: "Where did Baburao get all the Rs. 2,56,167|- from in the assessment year 1951-52?"

We have given the above example, with which we are intimate, to prove to Mr. Morarji Desai how a bad law can be worse used by the Income Tax administration. If a working journalist having at his command a popular medium of expression can be persecuted in this manner what must be the fate of thousands of helpless tax-payers writhing in agony under the vindictive tyranny of the various officers of the Income Tax Department—all apparently acting "in the interest of Revenue" but many to line their own pockets with profits of corruption?

It is obvious that this tragic state of affairs continues to flourish because of two basic reasons:

1. The Income Tax Act is not an equitable law promising to the tax-payer even the slightest vestige of justice.

2. Too much destructive power is concentrated in one man's hand with the result that with the first temptation he ceases to be a man and becomes a monster.

By this let Mr. Morarji Desai not misunderstand us. We believe with him that the ideal of a "Welfare" State can only be achieved by collecting taxes. We also believe that taxation can be used as an effective instrument to remove social inequalities. We also believe that just taxes must be paid to the State by all good citizens and those who evade tax must be condemned.

But after all these beliefs, we find it difficult to believe that the present law of income taxation and its vindictive administration are the right methods of collecting taxes from free citizens.

Criticism, unless it is constructive, is of no use to anyone. We, therefore, suggest certain reforms in our taxation law and its administration and hope that Mr. Morarji Desai weighs them carefully in his mind:

(1) As concentration of unbridled power in a single man causes all the mischief and heartburning, distribute this power by making the Income Tax Officer, an investigating officer, a policeman of the Tax Department. He should be given full powers of investigation and asked to prepare a pro forma assessment, a copy of which should be served upon the assessee a month in advance giving specific reasons for the additions and alterations made.

(2) This pro forma assessment should be placed before a bench of Assessors. This bench should consist of two persons—one a law member and the other an accounts member. The Assessors should fix a date of hearing to finalize the assessment and hear both the Income Tax Officer and the assessee, accept all evidence as it comes, weigh it judicially and then finalize the assessment. ....

(3) After this, the Assessee should be called upon to pay the tax on undisputed items or an amount based on his previous five years' annual average compulsorily. Any additions, arbitrary or otherwise, should be treated as disputed items and the assessee should be permitted to exhaust all his remedies of appeal till the Supreme Court.

(4) The Appellate Assistant Commissioner's post should be abolished. It is a vestigial organ of no use either to the Department or to the assessee. This stage only delays justice and the finalization and collection of revenue.

(5) From the Assessors, the second stage of appeal

should be before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, within 30 days. The Appellate Tribunal should strictly follow a judicial procedure and admit all new evidence at whatever stage it is produced either by the assessee or by the Income Tax Officer. The present status of the Appellate Tribunal as the final fact-finding body should be abolished and greater judicial responsibility should be given to the members of the Tribunal.

(6) After this stage if some points of dispute still survive, the assessee should have the right to go to the High Court and then to the Supreme Court as at present, be it on points of law or because of improper appreciation of facts and evidence.

(7) New posts of Tax Collectors should be created and these Tax Collectors should be authorized to collect taxes, levy penalties, grant time and instalments and invoke if necessary other coercive processes of law such as: attachment, auction, freezing of assets, etc. But a working man should never be stopped from earning his normal, honest living though a reasonable share of this income can be appropriated towards the payment of tax arrears.

(8) A penalty should never exceed 6% of the tax amount—the interest which the Government would normally lose if the tax is not paid in time. The present 150% penalty is at once ridiculous and tyrannical and insults our very concept of free citizenship. This is a Moghul penalty and does not fit in with our ideals of a "Welfare" State.

(9) Imprisonment for default in paying tax should be abolished. It is not proper that the State should add to the misfortune of the citizen. Normally, no man would like to forfeit his liberty if he has the money to pay. Perhaps one man in a hundred, and that too a greedy fortune hunter, might hide his money and not pay his taxes. But to compel one person to pay, it is not right to enact a law which punishes 99 persons. Besides, it is always the man who builds up a business or profession for creating wealth. If that man is put in jail, the State loses a tax earner straightaway. Putting a citizen in jail is, therefore, bad business apart from bad statesmanship. In these days of jail reforms even murderers are let out on parole. To imprison a citizen for State dues amounts, therefore, to a vindictive use of power.

(10) As the tax liability is a life-time liability, which even an insolvency does not absolve, the business of an assessee should not be dragged into liquidation for tax arrears. Businessmen are known to have lean years. If they are allowed to survive they can build quicker on an old foundation than on an entirely new one. The State has a better chance of collecting its dues from an old firm that braved its misfortunes and turned the corner rather than from a new firm which takes years to establish itself.

(11) Farmers are often given remissions in land revenue when there is a famine in the land. This is a humane act. The same humane principle should be extended to income tax-payers who are also toilers in the same sense as farmers and who also face many reverses of fortune in these days of competitive commerce. The State should not discriminate between the two bread winners, both of whom go through toil and tears and both pay the State their legitimate share of taxes. If after a thorough and satisfactory investigation it is found that an assessee is completely ruined, his previous tax arrears should be written off and he should be helped to make a fresh start without being haunted with the phantom of the past. But care should be taken to see that such cases of distress are genuine.

(12) For a law to be a law it must be strict. A law has to hurt some one or other at some time. We do want a strict law and it should be strictly enforced. But let us not have a law which gives a licence to malicious officers to be vindictive under the handy excuse of doing their duty. Wherever an officer is found guilty of such practices, he should be dismissed. One bad officer often brings discredit to a whole government as was amply proved in the Mundhra scandal.

We have given above a dozen useful and practical suggestions—suggestions which should make the business of tax collection more just, more effective and more equitable. These suggestions are not easy to adopt, slaves as we are of hide-bound traditions of law and order. But we have great hope in Morarji Desai. He is a man with a rare courage and stature to revolutionize things. If he likes our suggestions he can easily carry his colleagues with him and revise our tax law and administration to make both more just and equitable. If he does so he will immortalize his name in the annals of our infant democracy.

Let us hope this agonizing cry for justice does not fall on the deaf ear of a just man.

21-4-1958. BABURAO PATEL

READERS AND HOMOEOPATHY

Since I started writing articles on Homoeopathy, I have been flooded with hundreds of cases every month. During the last eight months I have received over 2000 letters of distress, even from distant places like Africa, Australia and Malaya States, giving me case histories of various acute and chronic ailments and requesting me to help them.

I can fully understand the anxiety of the various sufferers but I cannot possibly help all these people however much I may wish to do so. Homoeopathy is essentially a science of individual treatment in which the patient must be in the presence of the healer. Postal prescriptions are dangerous and it is not proper to make postal prescriptions for chronic ailments.

Readers, therefore, should not waste their money on distress letters and telegrams. I cannot help them from this distance.

Baburao Patel

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Editor's Mail

(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)

Every woman is a unique creation of God. The mould is never repeated and each woman comes to the earth with a charm of her own. Look at this mellow picture of curves. After a long rest Cuckoo is back again on the screen to open an old wound which we thought we had healed with Helen's salve. Now once again the old palpitation begins in "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi", a romantic tale produced by K.S. Films.

TRISHLA DEVI (Delhi)

Is perfumed hair oil harmful to hair?

Everything perfumed is harmful, including a woman. A perfume hides the real smell.

How to treat those husbands who return late at night?

Put a little Epsom Salt in their last glass of milk.

Why do sanyasis adopt a particular dress?

It is a dress that attracts food and women.

Name the fittest man for the Defence Ministry?

S. K. Patil. He doesn't need a stick to support him.

How do you like the idea of Cooperative Housing Scheme?

Some Sindhis turn all good ideas into bad rackets.

Do good cinemas prefer Bauer-Klang film?

Yes, those who want long and reliable service.

What is in the sigh of a Muslim?

That is a prayer for 'masala murghi'.

What is your morning's first experience?

I begin with the mistakes in the "Times Of India".

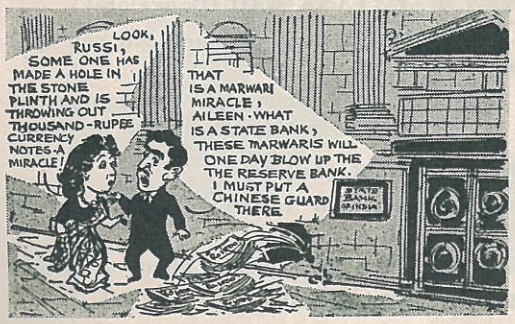
Will Morarji Desai become the Prime Minister of India after Pandit Nehru?

He has an excellent but one chance.

DURU N. ROOPANI (Jodhpur)

Any new scandal?

Russi Karanjia says that another Marwari termite has been burrowing into the funds of the State Bank.


LOOK, RUSSI, SOME ONE HAS MADE A HOLE IN THE STONE PLINTH AND IS THROWING OUT THOUSAND-RUPEE CURRENCY NOTES-A MIRACLE!
THAT IS A MARWARI MIRACLE, AILEEN. WHAT IS A STATE BANK, THESE MARWARIS WILL ONE DAY BLOW UP THE THE RESERVE BANK. I MUST PUT A CHINESE GUARD THERE.
STATE BANK OF INDIA

BIPIN RAY (Bombay)

What did K. Asif catch in his net?

He caught a fish that has bitten through several nets.

What does Prithviraj think of you?

It is a legal risk to print Punjabi thoughts.

G. ADINARAYAN (Asansol)

Who is Jayne Mansfield?

That is a Hollywood miniature of our Aarey Milk Colony.

V. P. MALIK (New Delhi)

Where is Munnawar Sultana of "Dada" fame these days?

She is with her Dada, looking fat and charming.

G. N. PAI (Bombay)

How to spot a prostitute?

A man from Goa should smell one from a mile.

Where to find virgins on earth?

Virgins are like God these days—a matter of faith.

This picture shows the difference between the love of a man and that of a woman. While the woman surrenders herself completely, drowning herself in her emotion, the man keeps his head above water and looks around. Dilip Kumar evidently doesn't want his heart to become a submarine in the emotional ocean of Meena Kumari's love in "Yahudi", a thrilling love tale directed by Bimal Roy.

My fiancee wants to pose with you?

And then marry you? We won't allow such flirtation.

B. L. SEHGAL (Amla)

I think too much of myself.

That is your provincial disease. I have no remedy for it.

Master Tara Singh's fate?

Tara Singh is an exploded cracker. He won't detonate again.

SHAILA KADAM (Nasik)

What is death according to you?

Death is a short picnic with the angels. Human beings have to return to this world several times before they finally qualify themselves for a permanent residence with the angels.

RAJENDER GANDHI (New Delhi)

In the March issue you devoted two pages to Moti but only half a sentence to the late Maulana. Is it fair?

More than fair! Moti was my Maulana and he had only my magazine for the announcement of his departure. Nehru's Maulana had a hundred Marwari papers.

When are you entering 'Sanyas Ashram'?

I am already a sanyasi. That is why the Income Tax lads can't get anything out of me.

I HAVE TO COLLECT TWO LAKHS FROM HIM AND HE HAS NOTHING ON HIM!
PULL OUT HIS 'LANGOTI' THAT WILL MAKE HIM CHILLY
I.T.O.
I.T.O.
OM NAMO NARAYANAYA OM NAMAH SHIVAYA
CHILLY! DON'T BE SILLY! HE IS A BANJARA. IF YOU REMOVE HIS 'LANGOTI' HE'LL BE HOT AGAIN AND WILL RETURN TO HIS EARLY DAYS. THAT WILL BE A GREATER DANGER TO SOCIETY

I don't see any apparent reason for Mala Sinha's success. What is the secret of her success?

Shortage of young film actresses! We have too many 'budhis' clinging to the screen even after a dozen abortions.

What, in your opinion, is the biggest misfortune of present day India?

The longevity of our Gandhian leaders! India won't make any progress unless these khadi beetles die. And they are dying at the rate of one every eight years.

I cannot memorise easily names and numbers. Can you suggest a remedy?

Take a dose of "Anacardium 200", once a week, for six weeks. That is the big memory drug in homoeopathy. It helps me to go through astrological mathematics without a headache.

Do you believe in miracles? Ever witnessed one?

Didn't you see the Mundhra miracle flying Krishnamachari home?

A. N. NARAYANA RAO (Bangalore)

Mr. Patel, at what distance can you spot a good figure?

I have a telescopic sight for figures but a microscopic fastidiousness for features.

R. BAHADUR (Jaipur)

Sometimes your replies make the devil blush?

Where the devil blushes virtue is born.

Y. N. JOSHI (Kalyan)

If you were born a prince?

I would be living among race horses as a glorified syce.

MRS. VAGAL CHHAYA (Bombay)

I have never seen the work of a woman

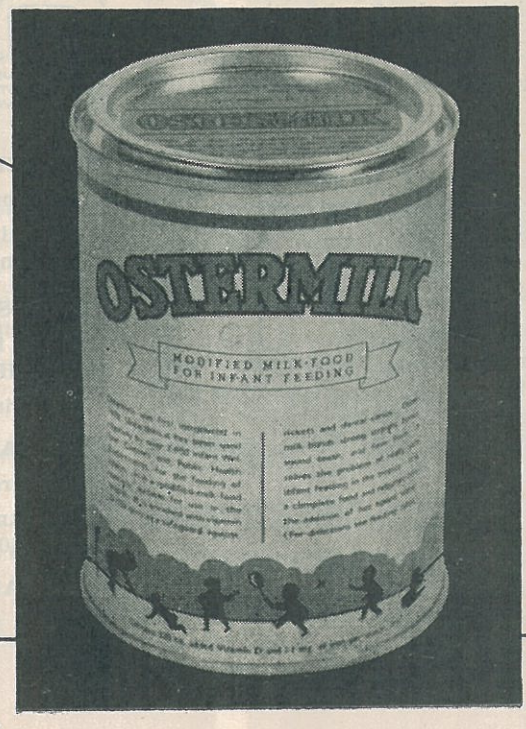
Just look at my straight back and sturdy limbs

When mother stopped feeding me she gave me the best baby food she could buy — OSTERMILK, which is pure, nourishing and very easily digested. Now I'm as strong and sturdy as any breast-fed baby —

thanks to

OSTERMILK

nearest to mother's milk

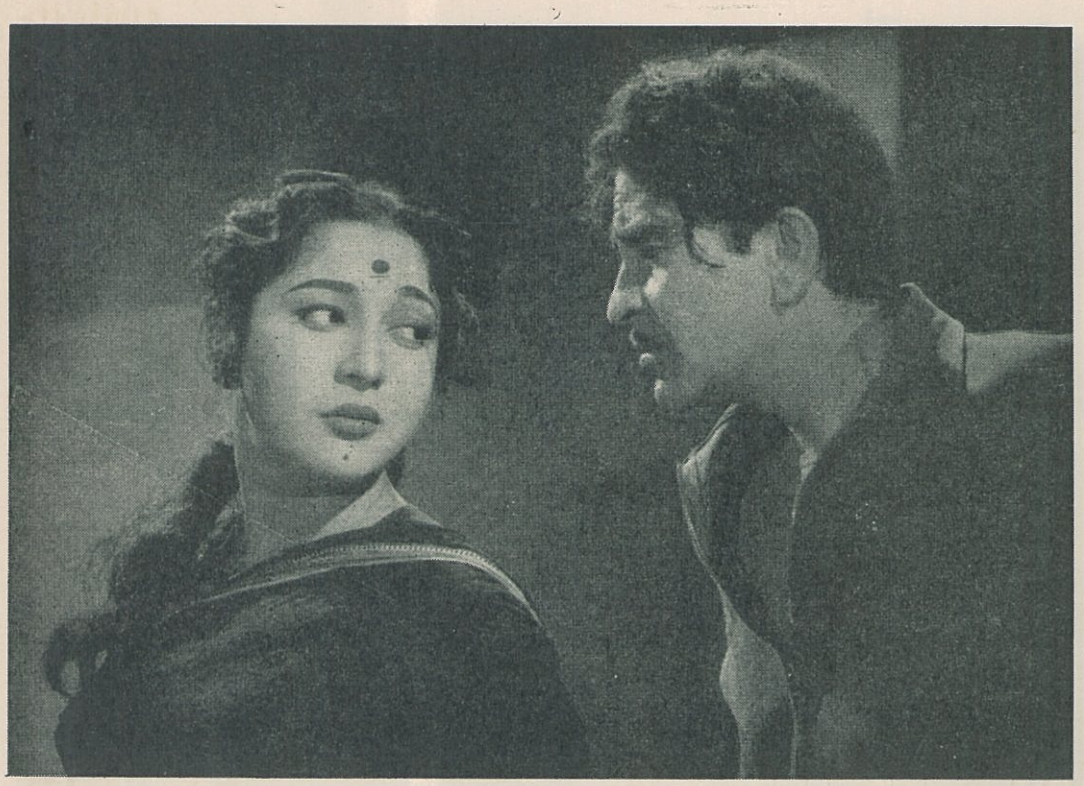


MY HINT TO MOTHERS

Send 50 naye paise in stamps (towards postage) to "Ostermilk", P. O. Box 202, Bombay, and you'll get a wonderful book on baby care. My mother has it .... you must too!

BOMBAY • CALCUTTA • MADRAS • NEW DELHI

E-69(B)



After all his experience this young man once again meets a young girl who baffles him. Raj Kapoor should know by now that behind every new pair of eyes there is a different woman, the like of which cannot be found anywhere in the world. Well, Mala Sinha is not exactly a potato princess. The slant of her eyes brings new intrigue to the screen in "Phir Subha Hogi", a romantic thriller produced by Parijat Pictures.

cartoonist. Is this a profession in which women have no interest?

Cartoons need a brush. Women use their tongues to caricature.

My husband loves lobsters but he does not love me?

A quarter pound ghee per day should make you a lobster within six months.

MRS. RAJANI DEVI (Bombay)

Who looks after Shantaram?

He has the whole Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti to look after him these days.

K. A. K. AYYANGAR (Madras)

"Nehru's words give me labour pains", says a girl.

Ask her whose words sow the seed first.

Difference between a woman without a bust and a car without a mudguard?

You don't get milk from a mudguard. Do you?

I am told that no producer was able to buy you?

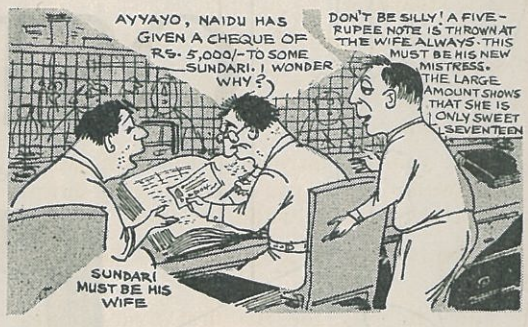
No producer, except Shantaram, has even thought of doing so. Shantaram had once put a price tag of Rs. 500|- on me in a "bakshish" form. The result is known to all.

There are 20 lakhs of blind persons in India!

Those are the blind ones we can see. What about those who having eyes don't see us?

I am tired of maintaining the bank accounts of other people?

The biography of a man is often revealed by his deposits and withdrawals.


AYYAYO, NAIDU HAS GIVEN A CHEQUE OF RS. 5,000/- TO SOME SUNDARI. I WONDER WHY?
SUNDARI MUST BE HIS WIFE
DON'T BE SILLY! A FIVE-RUPEE NOTE IS THROWN AT THE WIFE ALWAYS. THIS MUST BE HIS NEW MISTRESS. THE LARGE AMOUNT SHOWS THAT SHE IS ONLY SWEET SEVENTEEN

M. P. BHANOT (Rohtak)

Are you against the dowry system?

No, it is a less painful method of distributing wealth than income taxation.

VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

People in Mainpuri sing in chorus: "Aaram Haram Hai"!

Singing is a luxury of leisure.

S. K. NANGIA (Simla)

Why are you so much interested in Iris?

Mustn't I have a romance of my own at least 10,000 miles away?

R. L. DADLANI (Singapore)

Give a reason why mother's milk is best?

Religion and character come through it. In any other milk you get only meat proteins.

MISS U. PAI (Bombay)

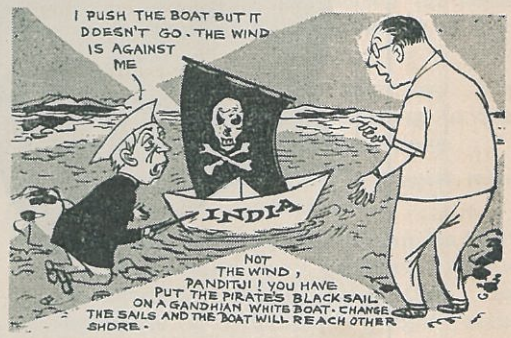
D. G. Tendulkar says dogs in India should not have English names?

That was an argument to justify 'Gunya' the odd name he has given to his own dog. If Tendulkar had written Gandhi's biography in Marathi, he would have missed the thrill of seeing it presented in international political circles. He seems to have used the English language with good effect for his book. I wonder why a dog should be denied the same advantage which Tendulkar took of the English language.

B. SUBBA RAO (Bombay)

What exactly is your quarrel with the Congress?

I want the Congress to set the sails correctly so that our boat goes into the high seas of progress and not into the backwaters of corruption.


I PUSH THE BOAT BUT IT DOESN'T GO. THE WIND IS AGAINST ME
INDIA
NOT THE WIND, PANDITJI! YOU HAVE PUT THE PIRATE'S BLACK SAIL ON A GANDHIAN WHITE BOAT. CHANGE THE SAILS AND THE BOAT WILL REACH OTHER SHORE.

What will now happen to the cake of Kashmir?

The day it is cut and eaten we can celebrate Sheikh Abdullah's birthday.

Who is this Dr. Rafique Zakaria?

Atre is investigating his family tree. Ask Atre.

SAMUEL HANNOCK (Bombay)

Why is Israel not getting out of the Sinai area?

Mount Sinai is the cradle of Israel. Who likes to leave the cradle?

TIRTH K. AIDASANI (Bombay)

If you possessed a dozen buildings?

Can you imagine a journalist becoming a rent-farmer?

What will be the last chapter of the book of your life?

It will be a glorious chapter—an envy of many. A useful life never ends uselessly.

G. C. AGARWAL (Ajmer)

What is Fatima Jinnah doing these days?

Pakistan's prize witch is again at the cauldron boiling new power potions.

MISS V. HARESH (Bombay)

Is there any chance for Nargis to become fat?

Yes. Her mother was a huge woman and Nargis is following her mother faithfully.

MRS. S. A. MEHTA (Bombay)

In cinema theatres seats should be arranged to suit the height of a person as it is terrible to sit behind a tall person.

That is a legitimate grievance. I think theatre owners should keep a supply of Dunlopillos for those who need a little lift.

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Why is a Kapoor always noisy?

Noise attracts attention where intelligence doesn't.

Where has Helen come from?

Byculla, the capital of Anglo-Indian Bharat.

Why couldn't Venus Bannerjee succeed?

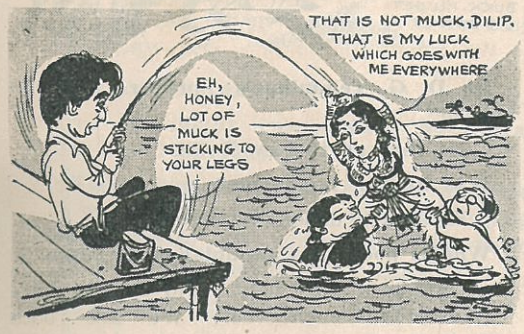
She has a face that has lived longer than her age.

Between Prithviraj and yourself, who is more strong?

Prithviraj! He is the strongest man in the world according to his pal Kriparam who lives with him.

Dilip has got the fish on his hook?

Yes, but father fish and grandmother fish are also trying to climb up the hook.



Can you read Sheikh Abdullah?

Isn't he reading himself?

"Tapas" looks better than "Girnar", they say?

Yes, Nehru is its architect.

If Nirmala Raje Bhonsle gets a toothache?

Nothing aches in her—not even a tooth.

I dreamt I was chasing Ameeta?

Don't! You will reach Marwar.

K. G. MATHUR (Ghaziabad)

Raj Kapoor and Sunil Dutt are friends?

They must be seeing that they shared a common worry.

Krishna Kapoor has narrowly escaped?

Krishna was never in danger. God lives in the home of a good wife.

As if one is not enough, film producers give us two dancers and make both our eyes dance with excitement. Cuckoo, the old favourite of millions of film fans, leads Helen, a new favourite, in a rare dance number in "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi", an exciting romance produced by K. S. Films.

V. L. NARAYANA (Howrah)

I want to sweep Nehru's bungalow daily?

That is a minister's job, not a citizen's.

Bengalis lead processions daily with empty stomachs!

Men with full stomachs lead cultural delegations.

I have not yet met a single society girl in the south?

Get yourself introduced to Mrs. Mary Clubwalla and you'll know the entire clubroom royalty within a week.

Is Jayashree a jolly girl to meet and talk?

She is jolly for the first five minutes and quite boring for the next fifty-five minutes.

I can't understand why an honest and sincere man like you is harassed unnecessarily?

Our Government feels that a colourful critic should be in heaven and not in a dry "Welfare" State.

Say something interesting about Vohra of L.I.C.

He is now in charge of all investments and brokers.

Where are you exactly now?

I am in a 12' x 12' room in my club.

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

My grandfather says women should be like shoes on our feet?

That is an ancient prescription. Tell, grandpa that a woman is like a Gandhi cap on our head these days.

Krishna Menon bores me with his too many speeches and patriotism these days.

He has to make up for his twenty-five years lost in England.

While at Ferozepur, Krishna Menon defied security arrangements, greeted the public with folded hands, patted some charming babies and threw back flowers and garlands at the cheering crowds. Another Nehru in making, sir?

Looks like! The fellow is presenting his testimonials in advance for the Prime Minister's post.

OH, NO! I AM PREGNANT. I WANT A PRETTY CHILD NOT A KATHAKALI DANCER
WHY DON'T YOU GARLAND?
EXCUSE MY WIFE, SIR. SHE HEARD YOU WERE DOING NEHRUS ACROBATICS. SHE THOUGHT YOU HAD NEHRU'S FACE ALSO

PREM C. SINHA (Arrah)

Your comments on the latest Nehru cabinet shuffle?

The aces are the same. A few additional jacks won't make a difference to the old game.

One cannot understand why Jairaj should be so angry when Nishi does that to him. We never knew that Jairaj was an artist in his choice of women. But then in motion pictures one has to listen to the director who only gives arms to the heroes of the play and asks the women to take their legs home. Jairaj and Nishi bring some excitement to the screen in "Chal Baaz", a social theme produced by Neolite Films.

Can you play the piano?

Anyone can play the piano but it is difficult to say in which land the sound one makes is called music.

How did our Congress bigwigs celebrate Holi this year?

The Maulana took our Holi with him this time and little Tyagi did not get a chance to kiss Nehru.

MISS L. CHINNASWAMY (Secunderabad)

May I know God's address?

5831 Regimental Bazar, Secunderabad. And there God lives in a goddess if you care to find Him.

How is Haridas Mundhra related to Dalmia?

Mundhra seems to be a rush print of Dalmia.

Can you predict the future of the children of an Income tax officer?

According to the Hindu scriptures, the children of revenue collectors are usually born with many congenital defects.

How old is Sunil Dutt?

He is one Nargis old now.

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Who is Ismail Noor?

Noor is Kardar's consul-general in Pakistan.

Where did flattery take its birth?

Flattery is the child of self-interest.

Is Yadugiri Devi a genius?

She can make a costume without cloth and a fortune without a costume.

I MAKE COSTUMES, SIR
YOU'VE EARNED A LOT THIS YEAR. YOU MUST BE CUTTING A LOT OF CLOTH?
I.T.O.
NOT CLOTH, SIR, SHE CUTS ONLY CURRENCY NOTES

Who is Baban Gokhale?

Baban is the most mischievous Maharashtrian Brahmin within five hundred square miles.

"Gita" inspires a Muslim friend of mine?

The Muslims seem to have digested the 37th verse of the second discourse well. It says, "If slain thou wilt attain heaven, if victorious thou will enjoy the earth, therefore stand up and fight resolutely." The Hindus don't seem to have come across this verse.

Krishna Menon is an atheist, I hear?

A man who serves Nehru cannot afford to believe in God.

If Meena Shorey offers you a kiss?

I have never smoked stubs yet. I like a new cigarette.

How to abuse a Punjabi?

Repeat his explosions.

I hate Communists. You?

I don't! I disagree with them. Hatred is beyond me.

Some smell a millionaire in you?

Yes, I have the marmalade packing but no marmalade inside.

Have you ever been insulted by a producer?

Never! But I have been abused very often. You can only be insulted by a man whom you respect.

Whom does Nargis fear most?

Herself! Even old gramophone records bring tears of memory into her eyes.

Must Nehru punish you?

He doesn't but others misuse his name.

When does an Anglo-Indian girl count sheep?

When the wolves become scarce.

JOYCE SITS ON THE WRONG ROAD
YEA! FOR WOLF WHISTLES SHE MUST GO TO COLABA
NICE BOYS, BUT SO MANY YEARS AWAY FROM A BUICK. I'LL GET OLD BY THEN

Do D. G. Tendulkar's prayers go to heaven?

No they go to New Delhi.

Was Jinnah handsome?

He had a debonair personality.

Who is poorer: Chandulal or Baburao?

Ours is a dead heat. Old friends don't like to beat each other. We are both winners.

If Qutub Minar topples down?

We shall have one less memory of our defeat and shame.

Will Maharashtrians get Bombay?

Yes, only when the Maharashtrians want it too badly.

Why do Parsis talk too much?

Parsis are a people of a hundred fears and not all fears are silent.

How to keep a track of Kantilal Desai?

Atre is keeping the track notes of all Kanti's gallops.

Do you condemn divorce?

Yes, I don't think a second-hand woman can make a first class wife.

Nehru never goes to the Bhangi colony?

Nehru is not a hypocrite.

K. B. LALL (Indore)

How merciful is God?

He gives us roots and barks at least while dangling rice and wheat before us.

Here a Marwari goes to the temple daily for a child?

Why don't you ask him to go to the goddess at home?

Maulana Azad did not leave behind a will?

Empty bottles don't need a will.

If I wink at Chand Usmani?

Her uncle, Atib, will sue you for damages. That fellow wants people to wink at him.

Is Madhubala a risky proposition?

Madhu is a community project. Look at the number of people she supports.

BUT I WANT TO MARRY YOU, MADHU, NOT THIS BUS = QUEUE
WON'T WE FEEL LONELY IN THE HOME? MORE THE MERRIER, ISN'T IT?
EH, MISTER LOVER, WE WERE ALL BORN TOGETHER - WE GO TOGETHER

T. V. KINI (Madras)

Do I deserve a copy of your 'Burning Words' with your autograph?

I have not given a copy even to my son-in-law yet.

T. S. VENKATRAMAN (Madras)

Are not Indians emasculated by Neera, Nehru and Neutrality?

These three instruments were invented to wake up the sleeping. But the sleeping ones seem to have gone out of the world without even opening their eyes.

S. SUNTHARALINGAM (Colombo)

If a girl disappointed in love meets a boy disappointed in love, what happens?

Two disappointments make one appointment as was proved by Nargis and Sunil Dutt recently.

MISS MRINALINI RAO (Kharagpur)

Is polyandry impossible?

Isn't it fashionable among club women these days?

SHASHIKALA KETKAR (Poona)

What will happen if Baburao and P. K. Atre praise each other?

The sales of "Maratha" and "Filmindia" will drop immediately.

K. M. K. NAIR (Kasaragod)

Have you ever built castles in the air?

The castles I built on earth also disappeared into air. My destiny is getting air-conditioned.

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

We expect too much from Nehru?

That is his fault. He promises too much.

Why is Menon making so much noise these days?

He doesn't want people to look at his Defence budget and expenditure. We might discover new "jeeps".

Will Baburao Patel go straight to Gandhiji in heaven?

No, I'll go to the Muslim section where the diet and company will suit me better.

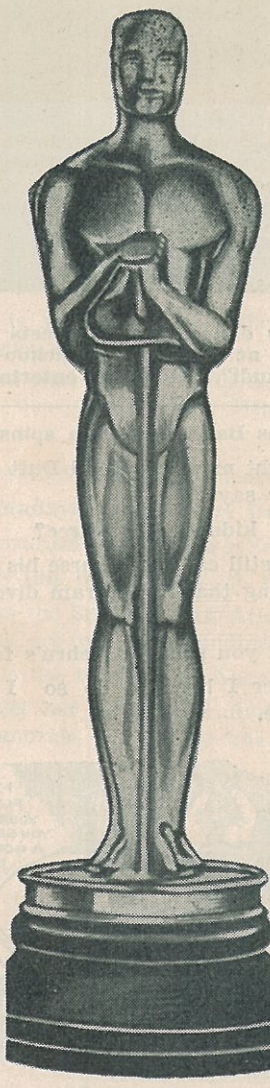
OH, PLEASE, I HAVE JUST COME FROM A DRY, ANTI-BIGAMY LAND. LET ME COMPLETE MY QUOTA OF WINE AND WOMEN UNDER THE CRESCENT AND I'LL JOIN GANDHIJI TO ACQUIRE A CELIBATE CONSCIENCE
WINE & WOMEN
WORKING COMMITTEE
COME ON, BABURAO. GANDHIJI WANTS YOU IN OUR SECTION

M. P. RAVIDAS (Malacca)

What is this Aarey Milk Colony?

Westrex

Again Honoured!



THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Presented the 1957 Scientific & Technical Award to *Westrex Corporation* For assisting in the development of the **Todd-AO** process. *Westrex* designed, manufactured and delivered within six months a special 6-track Stereophonic recording and re-recording system and a 96-channel mixer console.

GOOD THEATRE SOUND STARTS IN THE STUDIO

AND

GOOD STUDIO SOUND STARTS WITH

Westrex

NEWS FLASH

Congratulations to Mr. V. Shantaram and Raj Kamal Studios on the President's Award for "**DO ANKHEN BARAH HAATH**"— another WESTREX recorded Picture.

One good thing about the olden days was that pretty girls danced in the streets and one did not have to pay entertainment tax to see them. Look at good old Cuckoo—still a pretty picture showing better grace than Helen in "Yahudi", a thrilling entertainer.

That is a place where we keep our city's milch mothers. The dry mothers live in Marine Drive.

What do rice and potatoes do to a man?

The same thing that they do to a woman like Mala Sinha.

Do income tax officers pay any tax?

Not on private enterprise.

M. MANAVALAN (Pakala)

Should I hate a Brahmin or a Muslim?

Only those hate others who hate themselves. Why light a fire inside to burn your own heart?

K. M. DHARAN (Madras)

What do you think of a woman who is the daughter of a doctor, sister of a doctor, and wife of a doctor?

She must be a guinea pig.

You are a Rajayogi?

That is right! The Raja part has disappeared at the moment.

G. N. PAI (Bombay)

Do South Indian girls like you?

I have not risked a poll yet.

Will Venus Bannerjee die a spinster?

She might meet her Sunil Dutt too. One can never say.

If Raman kidnaps Jayashree?

Raman still calls Jayashree his "bhabhi" not knowing that Shantaram divorced her long ago.

Why don't you pray at Nehru's feet?

Whenever I bend to do so I find his head there.

WHAT FANTASTIC NONSENSE, BABURAO! YOU WANT TO PUT FLOWERS ON MY HEAD AND MAKE ME A WOMAN?
NO, SIR, I BROUGHT FLOWERS FOR YOUR FEET? YOU SEEM TO BE A GOD IN REVERSE GEAR

SARJU PRASAD (Hazaribagh)

Is God coming to the earth?

No, as long as Nehru is ruling our part of the earth. Even Christ, who is reported to have already started for India according to Christian missionaries, has delayed his arrival.

HUSAIN M. KASKAR (Bombay)

What is the shortage of rice due to?

The Muslims in India waste a lot of rice in making pulav and biryani. Even in the fasting month of Ramzan, they ram in three meals in twelve dark hours thinking that Allah cannot see this social crime in the dark.

ARRE HUSAINMIYAN, THODA BEGUM KO BHI CHAVAL DO. KAL AKHKHA DIN BHOOKA NIKALNA HAI
ACHCHA ALLAHMIYAN, CHAVAL DETA HOON MAGAR USKO KAHADO KE WOH SO NA JAI NAHIN TO RAAT BEKAR JAYEGI. WOH DOUBLE ROZA HOGA

Any third five year plan in making?

Of course it is in making. Without the third Five Year Plan no new loans can be taken and without new loans old loans can't be repaid. This vicious circle has to go on otherwise America will threaten to auction the country.

Who has got more sense: P. K. Atre or Baburao Patel?

Atre! He is making Rs. 20,000 a month.

Please tell me frankly who is more beautiful between Madhubala and Vyjayantimala?

Both are not beautiful. Madhubala is a bit more pleasant in face while Vyjayantimala has a better figure.

What happened to Sheela Kader from Rangoon?

She met a little Pathan and the fellow stole her old name.

Is Madhubala still a virgin?

Her address is: Arabian Villa, Pali Road, Bombay 20.

SANT P. MAKER (Jullundur)

Shammi Kapoor is younger than his wife?

So is Sunil Dutt. Punjabi boys evidently like women who have seen more summers.

"We need no butter but guns", says Feroze Khan Noon?

What do you need as a Punjabi living on the frontier of India?

When does a Punjabi pray?

I really can't think of an occasion when a Punjabi needs the help of God.

No one abuses you here?

The percentage of literacy in Jullundur must be very low. Do the Congressmen there use thumbs for signing contracts?

An Englishman became a Sikh. Heard that, sir?

Yes, he deserves our congratulations. He will now be happy at all times and under all circumstances.

When a Sindhi winks at his own wife!

The prey is within sight. But not all Sindhis use this modern Morse code.

Punjabis never mean what they say?

That is evident. If they mean all they say, we shall have no mothers but all whores, seeing that Punjabis like J. K. Nanda threaten to sleep with my mother who has now been dead 50 years. Even the ashes of the dead seem to excite the lust of some Punjabis.

RAJENDRA TAKKER (Ludhiana)

What do the pockets of our ministers contain?

They contain sons, nephews, sons-in-law and contractors. And these contents contain currency notes.

A. RAMDAS (Nellore)

Does not the Dravida Kazhagam deserve to be banned?

How can you ban millions of people? You must win them over.

DEVICHAND (Kota)

I get continuous hiccoughs at regular intervals. Any remedy, please?

Find out the cause and get yourself treated by a good homoeopath. Till then keep "Kali Bromatum 3x" handy with you and take a few doses when you get an attack.

And now Rajasthan Canal, the largest of its kind in the world!

A new gold mine for Congress contractors.

How did Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed look like when he recently visited Bombay?

He looked like a prosperous businessman anxious to protect his investments.

B. T. PURANIK (Bombay)

Have you ever apologized?

Hundreds of times! Being essentially a man of honest impulses and emotions I make more mistakes than most people.

What happens when Nehru arrives at a clear and honest decision?

He asks himself the question: "Surely, this cannot be the right decision?" And then he offers a plebiscite to Kashmir.

Has she bitten off a bit of that rock? You can never say what a woman will do once she becomes crazy. We know women who have bitten off the muscles of a man. Shammi, one of our seasoned actresses, gives a fine performance in "Chalbaaz", a thrilling tale produced by Neolite Films.

M. R. DESAI (Bombay)

What is your reaction when you read 'Satyameva Jayate'?

I feel that Sanskrit will never be popular in the Income Tax Department at least.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Has Sandhya no Yadugiri Devi?

Shantaram is Sandhya's Yadugiri.

Who is this fellow H. V. R. Iyengar?

He is the South Indian Atlas who threw out the six-foot-two Mundhra.

What is the hardest job Nargis has to do?

Forget her past. Her mind is married to memories, wherever the body may sleep.

S. PRAKASH (Jullundur)

Jam Saheb is in hot water, they say?

He will need a lot of hot water for his size. We have no fuel to heat that much water.

At 23, my liver does not function properly as a result of which I am somewhat pale. My digestion is also weak. I have a feeling of obstruction in the nose due to wind in the abdomen. I catch bad colds too frequently. What should I do, sir?

Run two miles every morning.

J. DAKSHINAMOORTHY (Bolarum)

What is the value of your assets?

Faith, knowledge and destiny cannot be evaluated. Only things with a limited life have a price tag.

I like women and strangely enough they like me?

Then start another "Bapnu Ghar" like Manu Subedar and make the women work.

A girl pays me for the pleasure of a night's fun?

A male prostitute, eh? A nice profession for a man named Dakshinamoorthy! Is it a family profession?

SEE THAT SISSY THERE ? HE RUNS A MALE BROTHEL
BALCONY
TUMHINE DARD DIYA, TUMHI DAWA DENA
BANRAS
FOR THAT PRICE HE SHOULD STAND NEAR SOME SLUM CINEMA

Predict Nargis-Sunil's future?

They have paved their path with broken tiles. A crazy design looks modern and picturesque today but when the little pieces start coming out the entire design loses its charm.

Your last days are dazzling. Babs!

But those who dazzle others burn themselves.

If I had only money to buy a revolver I would have shot myself.

HOW TO BE HAPPY THOUGH MARRIED

THE MOST PRACTICAL AND DARINGLY ILLUSTRATED BOOK (WITH 50 NEW DRAWINGS OF WEDLOCK UNION) IN THE WORLD. HELD NOT TO BE OBSCENE IN 2 RECENT COURT CASES. THE LEARNED MAGISTRATE OPINED THAT THE BOOK "PROVIDES IN ONE VOLUME AND IN CONCISE FORM AN EPITOME OF THE KNOWLEDGE AT PRESENT AVAILABLE IN THE WHOLE FIELD OF SEXOLOGY". A MUST READING FOR THE MARRIED. THE COLLECTOR OF BOMBAY REQUISITIONED COPIES OF THIS BOOK FOR INDIA OFFICE (LONDON) AND BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARIES. RUSH YOUR ORDERS WITH Rs. 16-75 nP. BY M.O. OR P.O. NO V.P.P. FOREIGN 40 SHILLINGS OR 6 DOLLARS. ENGLISH, HINDI & GUJARATI EDITIONS AVAILABLE

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A new bride is a fascinating theme for research on the honeymoon night. But both the parties here seem anxious to discover things with their eyes closed. If they would only open their eyes, scientific conclusions would be much easier to arrive at. Pradeep Kumar and Mala Sinha keep the home fires burning in "Ek Shola", a love tale produced by Deep and Pradeep Productions.

Don't waste a bullet to give us a poor corpse. We need all our bullets for Pakistan. Put your head into a puddle and you will reach heaven.

ESWARA RAO (Madras)

Where will Mala Sinha end?

She will be crushed under her own weight.

We, Andhras, need very good and dignified journalism.

And yet you Andhras looted trains and burnt railway stations after the death of Poti Sriramulu. Didn't this goondaism insult the supreme sacrifice of the great martyr?

RISHI RAM (New Delhi)

How can I succeed in getting my story accepted for film production?

If you do not require any payment for it, make twenty copies of your story and post them to twenty producers. In a year you'll have twenty pictures on the screen based on your story and not one of them will contain your story.

K. A. PATNA (Madras)

If Lord Krishna is born again?

What can he do with our dynamic neutrality? He was a very interfering type of a man. He didn't allow either the Pandavas or the Kauravas to rest a minute.

K. DAS (Bombay)

What is a good reputation worth?

It is an expensive proposition in a city like Bombay. J. C. Jain spends five thousand rupees a month in giving free dinners to earn a good reputation.

VANDANA (Nowgong)

How do you like Guru Dutt's work?

If his home is happy his work is great.

Madhubala is as beautiful as the moon?

That is why perhaps she has pimples on the face.

What do you think when you see a bony I.T.O.?

I think that he needs some Marwari cases very badly.

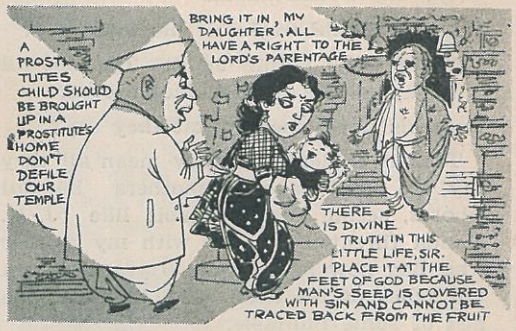
Will Jayashree move in a circle?

She has completed the circle already. She is again at the starting point.

EBENEZER S. SOANS (Kharagpur)

Why did T.T.K. visit Tirupathi after his resignation?

A man pregnant with truth has to deliver it somewhere. T.T.K. chose a temple instead of a court to give his "baby" a spiritual parentage.


A PROSTITUTES CHILD SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP IN A PROSTITUTE'S HOME DON'T DEFILE OUR TEMPLE
BRING IT IN, MY DAUGHTER, ALL HAVE A RIGHT TO THE LORD'S PARENTAGE
THERE IS DIVINE TRUTH IN THIS LITTLE LIFE, SIR. I PLACE IT AT THE FEET OF GOD BECAUSE MAN'S SEED IS COVERED WITH SIN AND CANNOT BE TRACED BACK FROM THE FRUIT

What is the yardstick of your progress in life?

The measure of venom is in the Income Tax thermometer.

Is astrology a science?

Yes, and as imperfect as any other science.

Here a Muslim puts on a Gandhi cap!

Watch his movements very carefully. Many Razakars of Hyderabad wear Gandhi caps to cover their manoeuvres.

C. RENGARAJAN (Karaikudi)

Which half of "filmindia" does Sushila Rani Patel write?

The gentle half is written by her. The violent half is produced by me.

K. MURLIDHARAN (Madras)

What is your opinion about monogamy?

Monogamy is an uninteresting occupation.

K. P. BARWE (Sholapur)

Indira Gandhi was not with her father when he visited Saudi Arabia?

That reveals the amount of faith Nehru has in the Arab character.

SARASWATHY PILLAI (Tiruvalla)

God is kind, they say. Then why is he cruel to me?

You are in a Communist State, an area out of bounds for God.

What do you appreciate in Sri Prakasa?

Sri Prakasa lends graciousness to his insignificance.

Do you think that the character of a woman is affected in any way by a false rumour?

Rumour does not affect character but often ruins a reputation. A young woman needs both—character and reputation.

I. SIVADASA MENON (Madras)

Will anybody be benefited by your death?

You fellows won't have to think of questions every month.

Have you taken an account of all losses and gains in your life?

I have had no losses in life, every mis-

fortune ending as a gain.

Is Mr. M. V. Raman charming?

Look at the number of girls he has collected within a short time. He will soon ask for a Brindaban of his own.

What is the homoeopathic treatment for love?

A woman of medium potency in a legal bed.

Are Parsis good at bluffing?

Hasn't 'Blitz' got a good sale?

D. RAMACHANDRAYYA (Madras)

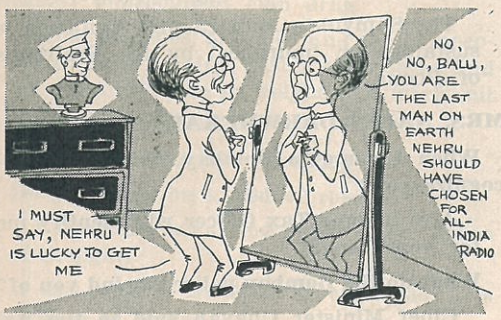
Why do you hate the Gandhi cap?

I don't hate it. Those who wear it seem to hate it because they have given the good, old cap a bad name.

MRS. VAGAL CHHAYA (Bombay)

Does a mirror ever speak?

It always speaks but the deaf don't hear.



HEMCHANDRA B. PATIL (Sulebhavi)

Don't you feel that Nanda is more charming than Nutan?

Nanda has more sex-appeal.

Does Pandit Nehru lend ears to Dr. Radhakrishnan's words?

Power has no ears for philosophy.

You made Nutan more popular than her producers. Why?

Don't worry, she will undo what I did. The girl is straying.

Wonder, what is it in Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant that has kept him in power so far?

Perpetual motion! In a dead people even the slightest movement is great action.

INDER P. GANDHI (Ambala,

Isn't Nargis too sensitive?

Not after so many years in films.

M. MOHAN (Unnao)

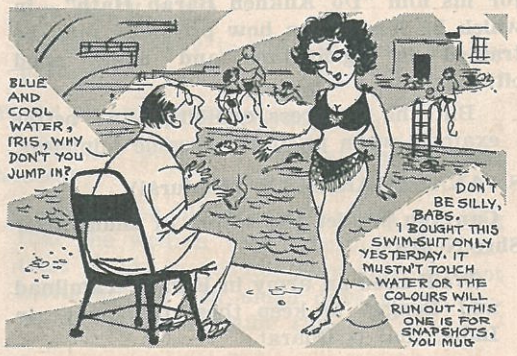
An unmarried girl here is pregnant. What is your good advice?

No abortion! No suicide! A mistake should not be corrected by a crime. Deliver the child in a maternity hospital and be to it both—father and mother. I'll respect a woman who does that.

Watch that raised big toe. That is where modern girls like modern boys to be. And the boys don't mind sucking that toe too. Abject submission is the main theme of modern lovers. They lick the ground on which their sweethearts walk. And because of such slaves of sex, each woman fancies herself to be another Cleopatra even when she meets Sindhi Caesars. Padmini seems to have decided to kill her fans with the tension of her curves in "Raj Tilak", a spectacular entertainment produced by Gemini Studios.

Can Iris swim?

I have seen her only in a swimming costume, never in a swimming pool.


BLUE AND COOL WATER, IRIS, WHY DON'T YOU JUMP IN?
DON'T BE SILLY, BABS. I BOUGHT THIS SWIM-SUIT ONLY YESTERDAY. IT MUSTN'T TOUCH WATER OR THE COLOURS WILL RUN OUT. THIS ONE IS FOR SNAPSHOTS, YOU MUG

A. V. MEHTA (Bombay)

The original of Pakistan's Constitution is missing?

In a jungle brute force is the ruling law.

HARBANS LAL JOSHI (Ludhiana)

S. D. Burman looks older than his tunes?

I think the tunes are beating him in age these days.

V. BYRAVAN (Gwalior)

I heard that Sheikh Abdullah is collecting money for a Haj pilgrimage?

Why should he worry about the collections? We shall give him a life-time pension to enable him to spend the rest of his life in Mecca.

K. V. RAMANA PATRO (Midnapore)

Give me the address of Ameeta?

"Ben Nevis", Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay 26.

T. S. RAGHAVAN (Bombay)

If the import of blades is banned and local production is also stopped, what will be the position?

Hindustan will be Sikhistan in ten years.

A man who worships God in his home tells others that he has no belief in God.

Every scientist has to be in the laboratory for years before he makes a discovery.

Suppose T.T.K. and H. M. Patel meet with an accident, with whom will you sympathize?

I shall congratulate their heirs.

ALEX JOSEPH (Bombay)

Shyama looks very innocent?

That is the art for which producers pay her.

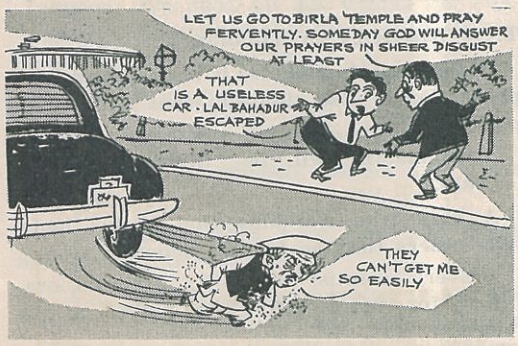
Your prediction regarding the marriage of Sunil Dutt and Nargis proved correct.

I am very rarely wrong.

Whenever a Congress minister meets with even a minor accident, the newspapers splash it in bold headlines on the front page. Why?

It is rather hard on a young man to be wearing the mask of a grizzly age and hiding his youthful face behind. But since Nargis wore the wrinkles in "Mother India" and showed what a great mother she can be, Raj Kapoor is perhaps out to prove what a great father he also can be in "Parvarish", a thrilling social theme directed by S. Bannerjee for Roop Kala Pictures.

Marwari newspapers like to tell the people that their prayers are being heard, even though in a small way.


LET US GO TO BIRLA TEMPLE AND PRAY FERVENTLY. SOMEDAY GOD WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYERS IN SHEER DISGUST AT LEAST
THAT IS A USELESS CAR - LAL BAHADUR ESCAPED
THEY CAN'T GET ME SO EASILY

N. R. RADHAKRISHNAN (Kozhikode)

What is Raj's marriage present to Nargis?

Old memories of travels together in Europe, Russia and America.

RAMESH CHANDER SUD (Simla)

They say cow's urine cures most of the diseases of human beings?

Does it cure corruption in Congressmen?

SAILENDRA PRASAD (Ranchi)

What is the definition of a virgin in the West?

In the West a virgin means only a cocktail and not a woman.

GOPAL CHANDRA BANERJEE (Calcutta)

Had you any 'guru' in politics?

Yes, Swami Bhookhanand! Twice a day I get agonizing lessons in politics.

INDIRA DEVI (Kanpur)

Does it help to be squint-eyed?

I know a producer who measures the bust of his heroine with his squint eye and tells the exact size of the choli required.

What are Nargis's assets?

She has taken up work worth thirty lakhs of rupees.

Is Sunil Dutt a good artiste?

He seems to be good at hiding his emotions by showing the world a son's face while holding in the mind a husband's design. If he continues the same habit on the screen, he won't be called a good artiste.

You never speak about your brothers and sisters?

I don't have any of my own. The stepones I have are like synthetic vitamins.

What obligations do we owe to Muslims?

Doesn't your "we" include Muslims?

VISHWESHWAR REDDY (Secunderabad)

If I send Rs. 10 for 'Baburao Patel Rescue Fund', care of the I.T.O., will that reach you?

It won't. Send it to me.

P. M. BHOJWANI (Gandhidham)

Don't you think, Mr. Patel, that producer V. Shantaram deserves a special award for his film "Do Ankhen Barah Hath" in which he has shown how prisoners may be trained in agriculture and made good citizens?

But the Congress exhibited a better example when prisoners became ministers.

S. ANANTHARAMAN (Madurai)

Can you predict the future of India after Shri Nehru?

We'll need an army in Kerala, Tamilnad and Bengal to keep these provinces in India, that is Bharat.

LAXMI KRISHNAN (Madras)

Are there doctors in Russia?

Don't people die in Russia?

Temples have brothels all around?

Both are places for burning emotion as incense.

DHANRAJANI (Deolali)

A Sikh can give his life but not his beard?

But Nanak Panthis are Sikhs with life and without beard.

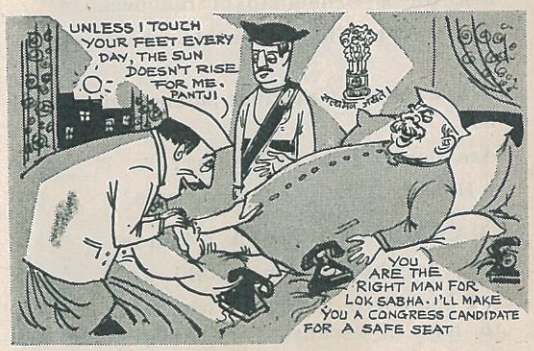
VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

Are you eating the fruits of your labour?

Fruits? They have not even left me leaves. I am living on the bark of the tree I planted.

I do not know the art of flattery.

Then reconcile yourself to a life of poverty.


UNLESS I TOUCH YOUR FEET EVERY DAY, THE SUN DOESN'T RISE FOR ME, PANTJI
YOU ARE THE RIGHT MAN FOR LOK SABHA. I'LL MAKE YOU A CONGRESS CANDIDATE FOR A SAFE SEAT

HARIRAM G. JUGAT (Bombay)

Whither Shri Morarji Desai?

Going Tenzing way—to the Everest of power!

S. J. S. PANCHHI (Nyasaland)

I saw a Brahmin eating 'murghee'.

The Samyukta Maharashtra agitation is sustained on 'murghee' by the Brahmins of Poona.

MRS. NALIN DARWHEKAR (Yeotmal)

When I come to Bombay, how can I recognize you?

Any Income Tax Officer will identify me for your benefit.

What do the Bombay police remind you of?

Chief Minister Chavan said in the Assembly that the Police Department was the most corrupt department in the State.

A. SRINIVASULU (Trimulgherry)

You are one of the few who helped Tendulkar financially in completing Gandhi's biography. Now you require help from others. What a pity?

That is life, a prism of ever-changing colours.

C. V. NARAYAN (Poona)

They will crucify you some day?

They are doing it every day but I am tougher than Christ.

V. B. HAVERI (Bombay)

What is your opinion about the Chief Minister of Mysore State, Shri Nijalingappa?

He is photogenic.

Y. R. AMBERKAR (Davangere)

A sweet seventeen pronouncing 'Prime Minister' as 'Crime Minister'. Any homoeopathic remedy?

She has been reading the reports of the Public Accounts Committee. That is wrong literature for a young girl to read in a Gandhian "Welfare" State. Give her a copy of "Nehru's Speeches" published by our Publications Division.

S. SEBASTIAN (Davangere)

You must be a good astrologer, sir?

Not yet! In ten years, perhaps! It is a science for which you have to steal hours from your sleep.

C. V. SURENDRANATH (Secunderabad)

Isn't there anybody whom you salute first?

I salute all Congress Ministers.

YOU SALUTED THEM, SIR, BUT DIDN'T EVEN ASK THEIR NAMES
THEY ARE MINISTERS NOT MEN, SYMBOLS OF POWER HAVE NO NAMES · THEY HAVE ONLY CHAIRS

C. K. SUBBA RAO (Hyderabad)

I want to put on weight. Suggest me the cheapest nourishment cum drug.

Milk, potatoes, almonds and the homoeopathic drug Alfalfa! After six months find out the difference in weight and work out the cost of human meat per pound.

TIRTH K. AIDASANI (Bombay)

Do you sleep on a bed of roses?

I sleep on books, and books have thorns of thought.

If an editor's freedom of expression is restricted in India?

I'll write books on homoeopathy, astrology and palmistry.

Are village panchayats flourishing?

They are so popular that even Income Tax Tribunals have accepted them as models of summary justice.

Where are you taking us?

I am taking you to a world of thoughts —thoughts that illuminate the darkest corners of your mind and turn it into a temple of an enlightened soul.

What dams did Gandhiji build?

The two famous dams are celibacy and prohibition. The only liquid that flows over them is Nira.

Is the thief a useful citizen?

Yes, he keeps the police employed.

If our railways had female ticket collectors?

Don't they already have quite a few ticket-collecting cats?

V. G. DAYALANI (Bombay)

Don't you feel terribly hurt when somebody ignores you?

I love to be ignored. It gives me time to read more books.

Are you financially sound these days?

Absolutely sound! There is neither income nor expenditure.

That is rather a solid proposition in dancing art. They call her Padmini, a superb dancer from the South, who distinguishes herself in "Raagini", a thrilling romance produced by Ashok Pictures.

BAGH SINGH CHOWDHARY (Jodhpur)

Are you V.I.P.?

Yes, but only in the Income Tax Department.

P. PANDARINATH (Hyderabad)

Why are parrots kept at prostitutes' houses?

The caged parrot was once a warning that the woman was a permanent mistress of one particular man and did not invite others. In olden days people respected that red traffic sign.

69
I AM SHOCKED. IN MY DAYS EVEN PROSTITUTES HAD BETTER CHARACTER · THEY DIDN'T PROSTITUTE THEMSELVES IN SUCH A WHOLESALE MANNER
THIS IS A WELFARE STATE, CHACHAJI. WE HAVE TO DO MAXIMUM GOOD WITH MINIMUM TOOLS
OH, NO, CHACHA, THAT CAGE SHOWS THAT SHE IS ONLY TEMPORARILY ENGAGED · SEE THE QUEUE THERE

Did you ever go to Bhangi colony?

Bhangis come to my home for homoeopathic treatment.

How many faces has Sheikh Abdullah?

I always see one face in him—the one he is showing now—the murderous face of a religious fanatic.

C. RENGARAJAN (Karaikudi)

Where will Mundhra end?

The Government seems to be bent on providing free board and lodging to Mundhra.

ROOP H. KALYANI (Calcutta)

Where can I borrow age?

Go to a library and you can add a century to your age within a short time.

H. N. PANDEY (Allahabad)

Nehru says that we can produce atom bombs, but we won't.

Our people say they can produce rice but they won't. This is a nation of obstinate people.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR MAY

1st Prize to Subhash J. Rele (Bombay); 2nd Prize to Rajender Gandhi (New Delhi); 3rd Prize to J. Dakshinamoorthy (Bolarum); 4th Prize to C. V. Surendranath (Secunderabad) and 10 Consolation Prizes to the following:— Trishla Devi (Delhi); Duru N. Roopani (Jodhpur); K. B. Lall (Indore); Saraswathy Pillai (Tiruvalla); Sant P. Maker (Jullundur); B. T. Puranik (Bombay); Ebenezer S. Soans (Kharagpur); Alex Joseph (Bombay); Tirth K. Aidasani (Bombay) and Indira Devi (Kanpur); Money Orders are being sent to all the prize winners.

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM?

* FULLNESS OF STOMACH
* BURNING SENSATION
* SOUR ERUCTATION
* LOSS OF APPETITE
* CONSTIPATION
* FLATULENCE
* DIARRHOEA
* NAUSEA

AND HAVE YOU FOUND THE REMEDY?

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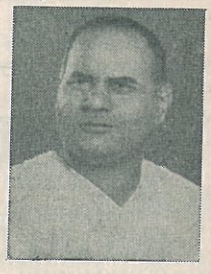

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BINOD B. MOHANTY (Mayurbhanj)

I could not attend the All India Fools' Conference which was held in Jaipur?

Had they known you, you would have been made the President.

CHITTARANJAN (Hyderabad)

Some find poison in your words, Babs?

Arsenic is a deadly poison. Doctors use it for curing many diseases.

I. SIVADASA MENON (Madras)

Is 'filmindia' a one-man show?

No, there is one woman in it too.

How much will Meena Kumari demand for a picture?

Three lakhs of rupees!

K. M. RAO (Calcutta)

Which side is Nargis' heart located?

On the Hindu side.

K. A. PATNA (Madras)

What is a newspaper in Russia?

A political trade bulletin!

B. L. SEHGAL (Amla)

People think me to be a fool?

Pardon me but I am inclined to agree with them.

B. S. KATHPALIA (New Delhi)

I have bought Dr. Ruddock's Homoeopathic Vade Mecum. Kindly suggest a good Materia Medica.

Buy Dr. William Boericke's "Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica".

MANOHAR (Patiala)

I like Jabeen.

I have no objection.

PREM C. SINHA (New Delhi)

What is the proof that you are wise?

I take your three rupees every month.

M. VISWANATH (Mangalore)

Did you donate your blood to the Blood Bank?

My blood pipe is connected with the Income Tax wash-basin.

L. RAMAMOHAN (Ambarnath)

How does the movement of planets affect the destiny of a human being, a microscopic speck in the universe?

Why does a little blade of grass dry and die in the sun?

PREM C. SINHA (Ajmer)

Are you for peace or for war?

I am all for war, because out of conflict comes creation.

I'LL GET PEACE ONLY WHEN I GO TO MOTHER
THE WAR OF FLYING SAUCERS HAS BEGUN
AS USUAL IT WILL ADD ONE MORE TO THE FAMILY. THEY HEAT THEMSELVES UP BEFORE THEY LIE TO COOL THEMSELVES DOWN
WHY DON'T YOU?

Will you please unmask the fellow known as 'Insaf', the wise man of the "Hindustan Times"?

"Insaf" seems to have died with the mask on.

U MAUNG KO (Mandalay)

My wife is having stone in gall bladder. When an attack comes she gets very severe and unbearable pain.

The stone needs a surgeon. Homoeopathic treatment won't help and don't waste time and money over it.

E. V. CHHAPWALEY (Uran)

How do you count the pulse of a woman?

A woman has no pulse. You can count only her heart beats.

Do you wish to learn astrology from me?

Tell my future first before you teach me. Here is my horoscope: Ascendant Virgo 15°-27' with Rahu 4°-22'; Moon in Scorpio 12°-44'; Saturn in Capricorn 23°-14'; Venus in Aquarius 26°-27'; Sun 21°-59'; Jupiter 16°-13' and Ketu 4°-22' in Pisces; Mars 6°-40' and Mercury 2°-7' in Aries; Uranus 6°-47 in Sagittarius and Neptune 20°-6' in Gemini. That is the Nirayan picture of the hunted Banjara.

Is marriage something essential for a prostitute?

They marry these days to experience the novelty of sticking to one man for a few days.

I think Ashok Mehta has a good future?

He deserves it. He has been fighting and struggling for it.

What is Yeshwant Chavan's ambition?

In India the ambition of every Congress minister is to be the Prime Minister. If the Congress survives, Chavan has a good chance. That is what Munshi's Banarsi astrologer has told him.

Gujarat plus Maharashtra is equal to?

Gujarashtra.

R. K. NAIR (Malaya)

A Communist Mayor for Bombay when you are there!

And a Communist "She-Mayor" for Delhi with Nehru there!

"Filmindia" spent two valuable pages over the death of a dog?

The dog taught me the virtue of loyalty for over thirteen years. I paid a well-deserved tribute to my teacher.

KUSUM LATA GUPTA (Delhi)

What homoeopathic medicine do you prescribe for allergic cough?

If you are allergic to young strangers, take a dose of Phosphorus 30.

KISHINCHAND BHANSALI (Bhavnagar)

Any remedy for constipation?

Take Collinsonia 30, a dose a day early morning, till you feel better.

RAJ A. CHHUGANI (Poona)

Did you ever gamble in life?

Don't I gamble with my peace of mind?

JAGDISH G. SAMBRANI (Bombay)

Years ago you had written that Nargis will not reach the shore. Hasn't Nargis reached the shore now?

She has got into a licensed boat. The shore is far off still.

SUSHIL K. DHAWAN (New Delhi)

I have a passion for light music?

Sublimate that passion and you will love classical music.

R. G. BENDRE (Nagpur)

Are income tax officers rich or poor?

Some of them are very rich, some less so.

Rs. 300/- EVERY MONTH IN 14 PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: Rs. 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of Rs. 10|- each.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "Filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order.

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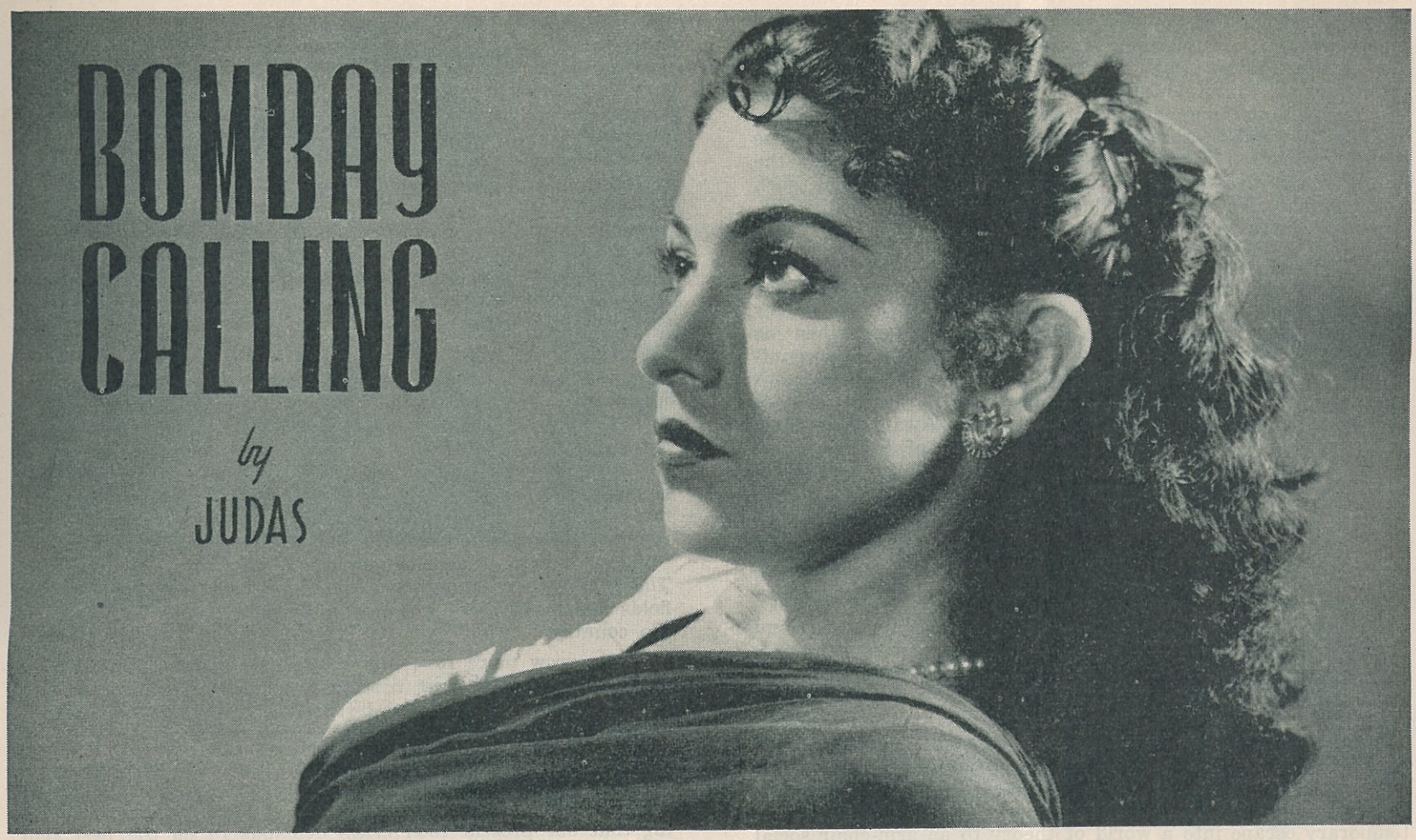


Few women have dignity in their face in addition to a deposit of dignity on other parts. Here is a woman with her Venus in exaltation. That ear, however, ought to have been covered with the hair, the chisel of God having moved over it with absent-minded indifference. Veena brings some rare dignity to the screen in "Khota Paisa", a social theme produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

This section is the monopoly of "JUDAS" and he writes what he likes and about things which he likes. The views expressed here are not necessarily ours, but they carry weight because they are written by a man who knows his job.

ONE INJUSTICE LEADS TO ANOTHER

It was in 1954 that the State Film Awards for the best pictures of the year in various departments of film production were instituted by the Government of India. The aim of the Government was, and still is, to encourage production of films of "high aesthetic and technical standard and of educational and cultural value to the nation."

This aim seems to have been kept in view only in four cases so far—three times when the Prime Minister's Gold Medal was not awarded to any children's film in the first three years and the fourth time, this year, when the Prime Minister's Gold Medal was rightly awarded to AVM's "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke".

The President's Award for the best film of the year has, however, been continuously given to the wrong picture for four successive years. In the first year "Shyamchi Aai" a picture produced by Journalist P. K. Atre, got the President's Award, in spite of the picture being produced in Marathi, a provincial language. This Award encouraged a provincial language to the detriment of Hindi, our national language, and it was given to a picture which could be seen and understood by only 27 million Maharashtrians, leaving millions of other Indians wondering what it was all about.

The second year's President's Award went to "Mirza Ghalib", a stupid picture produced in high-flown Urdu, a language understood by about 16 million people in the North. Millions of people in other parts of the country neither understood Urdu nor knew who Ghalib was. And they didn't care. The Award, therefore, again proved abortive and did not contribute to the educational and cultural progress of the people.

In the third year Producer Shantaram's colour picture, "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje", a milestone in aesthetic and technical standard with an essentially cultural theme, was conveniently ignored and "Pather Panchali", a morbid documentary film which mirrored the naked and chronic poverty of our people and their abject helplessness was given the President's Award. Here again this picture was produced in Bengali, a provincial language, the encouragement of which militated against our ideal of making Hindi our national language. "Pather Panchali" was meant for 25 million people speaking the Bengali language leaving the rest of 335 million people in indifferent ignorance about all the noise over the State Awards.

Seeing this tragic state of affairs, we wrote a couple of notes on this subject in our November 1956 issue. In these notes: "Dr. Keskar's Award Tamasha" and "Injustice to V. Shantaram", we roundly criticized the methods of judging pictures for State Awards and the lukewarm manner in which such Awards were treated by the people because of the lack of some specific value and dignity in them. We also made several constructive suggestions.

Our most important suggestion that the Entertainment Tax should be refunded to the producers of the Award winning pictures was taken up by the Government of Bombay which,

without waiting for the declaration of Awards, straightaway picked up two best pictures of the year, "Mother India" and "Do Ankhen Barah Hath" and gave their Entertainment Tax collections to the producers as a gift from the State. This was due to the unique enterprise and sympathy of Mr. V. Shankar, the Revenue Secretary of the Bombay State, who, because of his association with the Film Enquiry Committee, had the happy vision to realize the tremendous encouragement such a gift would give to the producers in turning out really purposeful pictures.

But way out in New Delhi, our capital of corruption, things seem to have gone wrong once again in selecting the right picture for the President's Award. As if to make up for the gross injustice done to Mr. Shantaram last year when his beautiful picture "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje" was unaccountably ignored, the President's Award this year was given to his "Do Ankhen Barah Hath". But in trying to make amends to a man who was hurt last year, the State Award Committee hurt another man this year. Thus an act of injustice perpetrated last year was sought to be wiped off by an act of injustice perpetrated this year.

Let us dispassionately consider the merits of the two pictures, "Mother India", which in our opinion should have walked away with the President's Award, and "Do Ankhen Barah Hath" which actually got the Award this year.

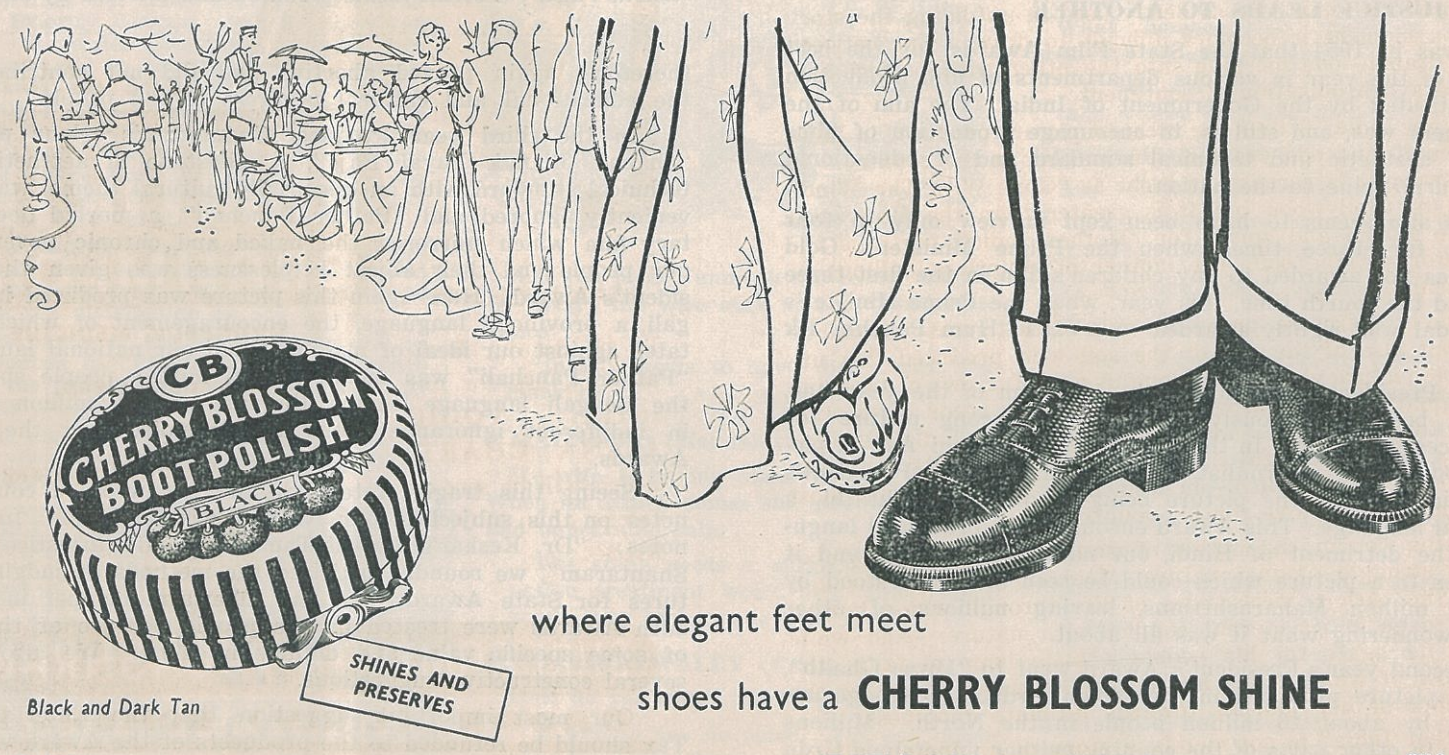
Shantaram's "Do Ankhen Barah Hath", though stilted and clumsy in presentation, is certainly a socially purposeful picture in which the producer poses the problem of reforming hardened criminals by giving them humane treatment and the liberty and opportunity to do honest work. Framed in synthetic sequences and portrayed in a melodramatic manner, the tragic end of the story provokes merely an academic possibility—an achievement of the ideal being beyond the pale of practical application. The theme of the picture can provide a temporary escape into a world of theory to an arm-chair social reformer. It can do nothing more. But look at the narrow compass of this theme. It concentrates on the tiny world of hardened criminals—all of whom are serving life sentences in Shantaram's picture. In a population of 360 million souls that inhabit India, that is Bharat, how many hardened criminals can we find? Ten thousand! Twenty thousand! Fifty thousand! A theme directed to the reformation of, say, fifty thousand hardened criminals in a population of 360 million people certainly cannot constitute a national picture. But for some strange reasons the judges of the State Awards thought that this theme had great national importance when they gave the President's Award to "Do Ankhen Bara Hath". Probably old jail memories of some of the judges evoked in them emotions of twin-brotherhood and the old school-tie did the rest. But these sympathetic sentiments made a laughing stock of their own reason and intelligence as displayed in their choice of the picture for the President's Award.

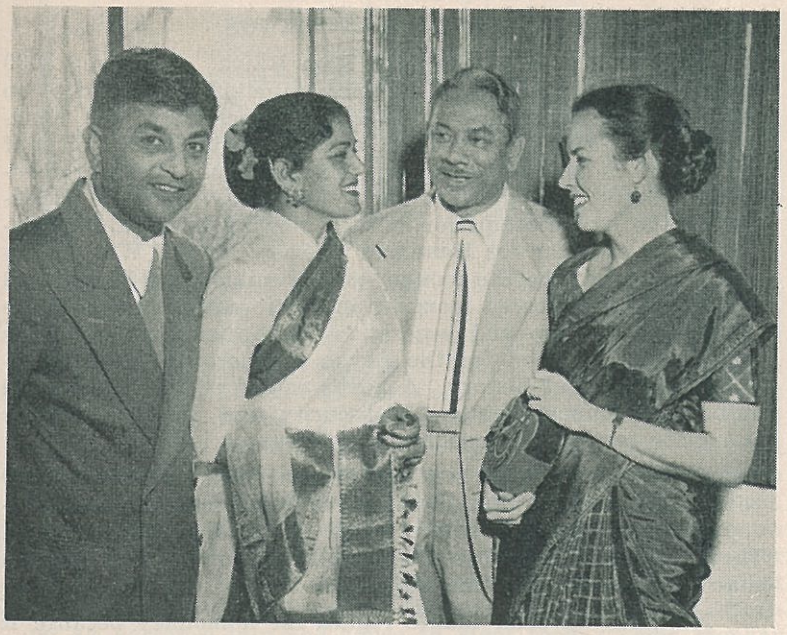
Now, what was Mehboob's "Mother India" like? This is how we described it once: "The present distress in our country was recently described as the "crisis of character" by Dr. Radhakrishnan, our philosopher-statesman. This very crisis of character has taken millions of our people from rice and wheat to roots and barks of trees. Instead of facing our food problem squarely and finding a solution for it, our leaders have been giving us hollow sermons of austerity and text-book solutions. Our plight is so desperate that even Pandit Nehru said the other day, "We will starve if necessary, we will die but we will go on". These brave words, however, do not grow more corn in the fields nor bring more grain to millions of empty stomachs in the country.

"To grow more food and soothe the pangs of millions of hungry people, we must first grow character—character that will teach us to face the worst vicissitudes of life with dauntless courage and turn even frowns of nature into blessings of life.

"As if in answer to this silent prayer of millions, Producer-director Mehboob seems to have produced his unique picture "Mother India". And it has not come a day too soon seeing that our present food crisis demands of us the best that we can give in character as an ancient people of great culture and traditions.

"Mehboob's "Mother India" is an unforgettable epic which





At the Bagai home in Hollywood. Ram Bagai, Filmindia's Special Correspondent, called all the Indians in Hollywood to meet India's famous producer-director Mehboob. Here they are, from left to right, Mr. Ram Bagai, Mrs. Mehboob, Mr. Mehboob and Mrs. Tara Bell Bagai, Ram's charming wife.

tackles this problem with a grim realism that shocks us out of our racial stupor and complacency and makes us sit up and think of the fate that awaits us if, even as a free people, we continue to display the same abject submission to misfortunes and slavish dependence on frowns of nature which through centuries have reduced us to our present plight. The very dynamism of this eternal theme compelled Mehboob to make full use of the dramatic licence so as not to miss the emphasis that was needed at places to bring home the message of the story more effectively. Even the element of dramatic exaggeration—so necessary to put over a story successfully before illiterate masses, who can only understand life in overtoned dramatic situations—has been so deftly used in unfolding the story that for a moment it becomes difficult to draw a line between life and drama—one merging into the other with perfect harmony and synchronization of sentiment.

"Mother India" is thus the greatest picture produced in India during the 40 and odd years of film-making in the country. In its epic sweep it is perhaps as great as "Gone With The Wind" produced by Hollywood but it is greater than the Hollywood picture in theme and spirit, for "Mother India" portrays the eternal story of the soil—the mother of countless millions of human beings.

"India is, therefore, proud not only of this great and unique picture but also of the son of the soil who produced this unforgettable picture vigorously ploughing the furrows of his mind and imagination and sowing in those furrows seeds of emotion and love for his people and country. "Mother India" is thus a nation's sigh—beautiful in its agony, lofty in its optimism and perfect in its realism—heaved by a patriot in his most inspired moment of love for his country.

"Taking woman, the mother of man, as the supreme symbol of man's struggle against nature, Mehboob portrays through her role the various vicissitudes of life through which human life has to go in its eternal conflict with nature. And while doing so he lights for his people a little lamp of faith, the divine glow of which helps his heroine to make character the sheet-anchor of her journey towards ultimate happiness.

"Mother India" is not merely a story of an Indian village. It is an epic of the human race eternally pitted against violent forces of nature and the vicious designs of men who constantly destroy what virtue and honesty create thus giving the human soul the foil that is needed to raise itself to greater spiritual heights."

The very sweep of this great picture embraces all the 360-million people of the country. Its theme is cradled in the soil of the land and its emotions spring from the empty stomachs of millions. The picture presents the eternal drama of the human struggle whatever the clime or the country. It is an ancient story beginning with Time and becoming more and more intense with the march of Time. Eternal in its theme and elemental in its passions, "Mother India" remains an unforgettable document of human endeavour and dignity. This is the picture that ought to have got the supreme recognition of the State, for by giving such recognition the State would have only endorsed its own aspirations to build a greater nation. What was Shantaram's little puddle of motion picture art and artifice compared with Mehboob's epic ocean of an eternal human drama?

But, in spite of the proud existence of this great picture, the judges gave the President's Award to "Do Ankhen Barah Hath" and in doing so proved their own bankruptcy of intelligence and imagination. It is a great pity.

While we congratulate the Government for adopting our suggestion to give cash prizes to the Award winners every

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year, though only token amounts are offered as cash prizes this year, we feel that if the State Awards are ever to be really effective in inspiring our producers to produce better pictures for the good of our people and country, the quality of judging pictures for the various State Awards must improve immediately.

Seeing that for four continuous years the President's Award has been, for one reason or other, given to the wrong picture, the conclusion that the wrong type of people are selected as judges is forced upon us. It is not enough to select old and respectable people and call them the best judges. We must have people who have studied the various problems and potentialities of film as a great art medium harnessed to the various problems of life. Judging motion pictures needs specialized study not only of the technicalities of this unique art form but also of the natural dramatic elements found in modern life. It is not enough to take a dozen old and bald people from various walks of life to a picnic of a score of pictures and ask them to pick up the best picture at random. It is necessary to explain to these people our national requirements in motion picture production and train them in the art of judging pictures from aesthetic, educational and national points of view.

It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to choose the judges very carefully every year if at all its Awards are to enjoy the respect of the producers, the people and the critics.

Our choice as the nation's best picture in 40 years is still "Mother India" and the very fact that this picture was nominated by international critics as one of the best five pictures of the world to compete for the Oscar this year proves that our judgement is right. The pity is that the judges of the State Awards did not realize this. It only proves a woeful lack of intelligence in them.

We, however, congratulate Shantaram on his luck in getting the President's Award for a picture that did not deserve it.

MONKEY-GODS EATING HUMAN BEINGS

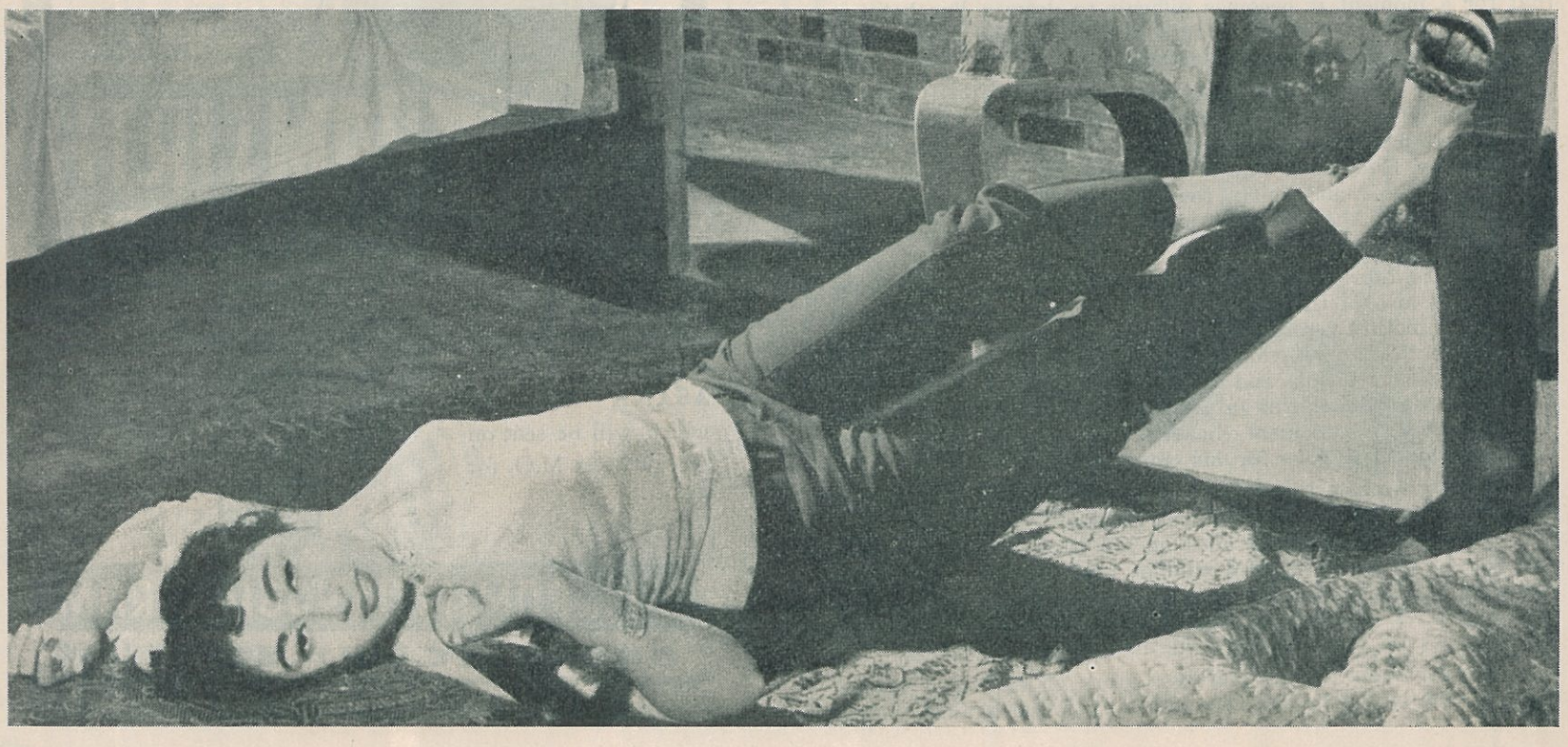
The monkey is a legacy of Ram Rajya. For over 3000 years it has been venerated because Valmiki in his anxiety to paint a poetic contrast between King Ramchandra, the handsome Aryan prince of Ayodhya, and his South Indian allies of the Nilgiri mountains described the aboriginal races as monkeys (Vanars) and glorified the valour and loyalty of Hanuman to the Aryan conqueror in such glowing terms that posterity raised an altar for Hanuman in every home. With Hanuman having become the monkey-god of millions of Hindus, all the genuine four-footed monkeys in the forest of India became symbols of worship and veneration while those human beings who shed their blood for the Aryan conqueror once again became aborigines of history. A poet's contempt thus condemned millions of human beings to obscurity and raised as many altars for four-footed monkeys in millions of homes.

Protected by this sanctity of sentiment for over 3,000 years, the monkey multiplied fast in India and it is said today that we have a monkey population of over 500 millions. They are all with us because even Pakistan did not claim a share of them at the time of partition.

Now, we have an innate regard for a monkey because it looks more alert and intelligent than almost any Congressman and because it has the courage to scratch its bottom without having to blush for it. But a monkey is an utterly useless mammal either for social purposes or for our socialistic pattern of society. Only once have we seen a monkey rendering some useful service when it readily agreed to scratch the back of a film actress who did not want her dumb-waiting husband to touch her that day. Beyond this solitary act of social service there is no mention in the entire history of the human race of any other monkey-service to humanity.

Had the monkeys become an extinct race of mammals, there would have been some justification for the thousands of Hanuman temples we find sprinkled all over India. But our

When youth has its own upholstery and of such wonderful Chesterfieldian design, the bed becomes a superfluous decoration in a home. A carpet suits the impatience better. Mala Sinha has taken a pose that attracts a daydream in "Parvarish", a social theme directed by S. Bannerjee for Roop Kala Pictures.



500 million monkeys, recently described by a Congress woman M.P. as "the military force of Lord Ramchandra", are very much with us and take a good share of not only of our sacred sentiment but also of our scarce food. Experts, who know how to count the sheep with closed eyes, say that our army of 500 million monkeys either waste or consume one fourth of all the food we grow every year. This is believable seeing that millions of poor human beings are forced to live on barks and roots in our "Welfare" State.

And these Ram Rajya monkeys are neither Gandhian nor non-violent. When they go food hunting they are known to have attacked pedestrians and school children in open streets and snatched eatables from their hands. They are reported to have entered homes and terrorized good housewives and not only eaten the cooked food but also thrown the vessels away with contempt, leaving behind many modern Sitas bleeding from monkey tricks. In Madura and other parts of the South we have seen them stop the traffic and upset a whole town. In Lucknow recently a single monkey held the entire city in terror for three long months and attacked and injured over 300 persons. We have seen monkeys with architectural talent removing Mangalore tiles from the roofs of houses and effecting an entrance into the house to steal food. Their monkey tricks in our fields and the consequent damage to the various crops cannot be easily described. At Ghodbunder, only 20 miles out of Bombay—the first city of India, we have seen a herd of over 100 monkeys completely devastating a large field of crops after attacking and injuring a dozen people armed with sticks.

Whatever the pattern of society we are going to build—capitalistic, socialistic or Communistic—the monkey is going to be our Enemy No. 1. Unless our population of 500 million monkeys is destroyed we can never have enough food for our people even if we place copies of Dr. Satyavathi's book on family planning in every marital bed. Unfortunately for us the monkeys—though scions of the fabled Ram Rajya heroes —are not literate and we cannot use the valuable precepts of Dr. Satyavathi on them. They, therefore, continue to multiply by millions every year and thrive well in a world built by man. And not one monkey is reported to have died prematurely from tuberculosis, a disease that solves life's problems for millions of human beings in our country. On the contrary their faces look more radiant and their bottoms more red every day.

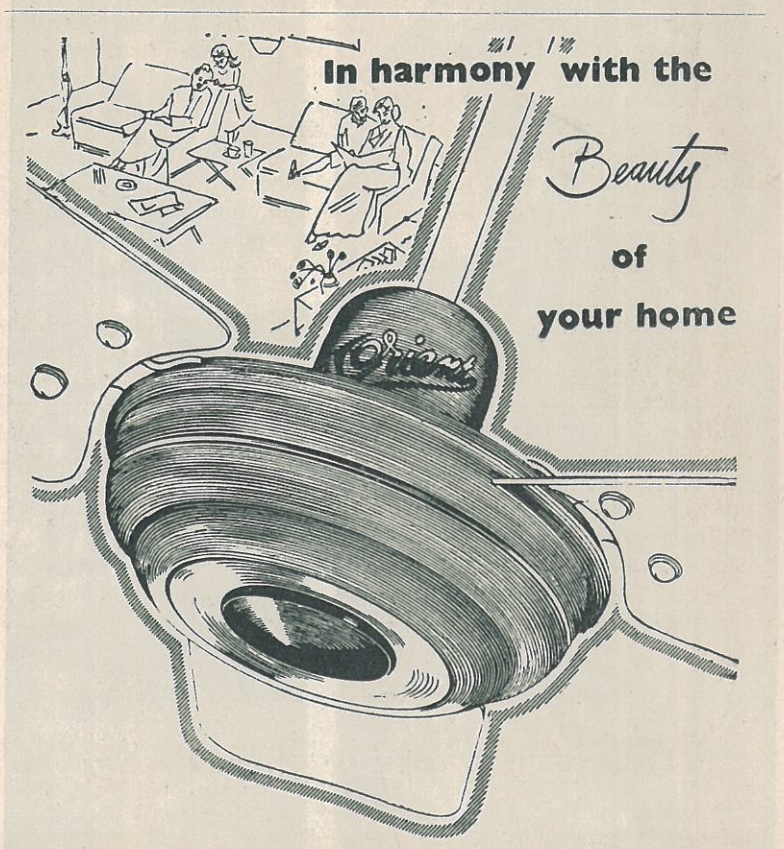
Now if we listen to Sahodhra Bai, the brilliant Congress M.P., who says that Lord Ramchandra's "army is being killed, murdered and butchered" when we export some monkeys, we shall soon find that within another 100 years the monkeys will have eaten us all up. They have already pushed millions of our people to barks and roots and made thousands of mothers sell their babies for a day's meal the best part of which first went into the stomachs of these monkeys. Many people in the South and Uttar Pradesh eat only what the monkeys care to leave behind for them, after feeding themselves gluttonously. Such is the terror struck by this "Lord Ramchandra's army" into the hearts of non-violent Gandhian mammals inhabiting India, that is Bharat.

With starvation staring us in the face, it is a pity that we have women M.Ps like Sahodhra Bai who use mock sentiments of mythology to protect monkeys in an atomic age. Such representatives of people should be chased out of Parliament to the forests to live with these monkeys—the gods of their stupid religious sentiments.

It was therefore good news when our Minister for Commerce, Nityananda Kanungo, said in the Lok Sabha that we had exported 1,28,200 monkeys beween April and October 1957 and earned Rs. 86,01,951 in foreign exchange. And he gave us an assurance that more monkeys were being exported in the current year at a better price of Rs. 200 per head to countries like: U.S.A., U.K., West Germany, Denmark, Australia, Canada and Sweden.

But the annual export of about 150,000 monkeys won't solve our food problem seeing that over 500 million monkeys are not aware of Dr. Satyavathi's book on family planning. The monkeys, not even having heard of Marie Stopes nor of Amrit Kaur and her tuberculosis seals, continue to multiply in millions every year at the expense of human beings.

What we, therefore, urgently need is an enthusiastic campaign to exterminate this menace to human society just as some urban municipalities have been destroying rats. It



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will be a good idea to kill a monkey wherever we see it and cook it for dinner if one is not a strict vegetarian. Monkey meat is very rich in proteins and might give our people just the strength and energy that is needed to survive our Congress "Welfare" State through the current and coming five-year plans.

If we remember correctly monkey glands were implanted in Seth Sarupchand Hukumchand of Indore twenty years ago and the Marwari multi-millionaire not only became rejuvenated but is still going strong in spite of crushing "welfare" taxation and a whole Congress session held in Indore. Well, if this miracle of the monkey gland can happen to a vegetarian Marwari, imagine the wonders monkey glands can do to millions of our emaciated people.

Only if we destroy our 500 million monkeys the million stone idols of Lord Hanuman, our celibate monkey god, will have some sanctity of purpose. With 500 million Hanumans devastating our crops and snatching meals from the mouths of our children, it becomes rather difficult for us to go to Hanuman's temple with an anna worth of oil to keep his red complexion shining. That definitely puts a strain on our devout nature and spiritual heritage from Ram Rajya.

PICNICS WITH PEOPLE'S BLOOD

While bards, actors, film stars, singers, dancers and prostitutes are all being used to buttress up the Small Savings Campaign and persuade the people to drop more coins into the coffers of the Government, while new and novel taxes to crush and squeeze the people are being levied every day, while slogans of economy in administrative expenditure rend the air every day, while Nehru demands more and more sacrifices from the people every hour to complete his fantastic five-year plans, while millions of people live on roots and barks in various parts of the country, in a single year, 1956-57, the Government of our "Welfare" State sent 734 favourites on cultural picnics overseas and spent Rs. 38.66 lakhs on them. In this blessed year our Government sent out 200 official "delegations" to various countries.

We know where all these "delegations" went. We know what that these "delegations" cost our people. But we do not know what these "delegations" brought home—except in one instance in which a female member, film actress Kamini Kaushal, brought home some photographs for her family album and wrote a few silly articles for a film magazine. The rest of the "delegations" brought home just nothing.

This is how the different Ministries spent Rs. 38.66 lakhs on their favourites:

Ministry	No. of Delegations	Amount Spent
Atomic Energy (Daydream Ministry)	5	Rs. 1,04,000
Commerce & Industry (Convertible License Ministry)	30	,, 6,95,291
Defence (Jeep Ministry)	17	,, 1,68,023
Education (Muslim Ministry)	33	,, 8,51,329
External Affairs (Kashmir Ministry)	16	,, 7,16,017
Finance (L I C Scandal Ministry)	12	,, 2,67,466
Food (Starvation Ministry)	6	,, 31,871
Health (T.B. Ministry)	10	,, 51,756
Home (Police Ministry)	2	,, 11,450
Broadcasting (Bald Brain Ministry)	11	,, 99,658
Irrigation (Dry Canals Ministry)	6	,, 41,690
Labour (Unemployment Ministry)	15	,, 1,43,252
Planning (Mirage Ministry)	1	,, 82,000
Railways (Accidents Ministry)	9	,, 1,68,080
Rehabilitation (Footpath Ministry)	6	,, 8,333
Steel (Tata Ministry)	5	,, 2,06,896
Communications (Wing and Wheel Ministry)	16	,, 2,18,574

As will be seen from the above table the largest amount was spent by our Muslim Ministry of Education under the late Maulana Azad. It also sent the largest number of delegations abroad to bring education home. As a result of its 33 delegations, C. Rajagopalachari threatens to give the Madrasis

Our Vice President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, was in Hollywood recently. And there while being entertained by Hollywood's producers, he wanted to know a little more about the Nargis-Sunil Dutt marriage. Producer Mehboob (left), who had himself never expected this anti-climax to his mother-and-son picture, could not explain the mystery. Ram Bagai (right), Filmindia's Special Correspondent says: "Gee! You didn't know it Mehboob? I must say they are clever kids. In Hollywood when a girl is in love the whole town knows it." But Ram Bagai doesn't know Nargis, the great daughter of greater Jaddan Bai.

an independent nation if Hindi, our national language, is imposed upon them.

Our External Affairs Ministry, a reserved forest for Kashmiris and Nehru's favourites, scored second honours by spending Rs. 7,16,017 only on 16 delegations. It is obvious that while Maulana's Muslims needed less money per head, Nehru's Kashmiris required almost double the amount per head. No one knows what these delegations brought home except that the wife of the leader of a delegation to Moscow is reported to have returned home pregnant with her seventh child. The cold climate of Moscow obviously helped.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry saved us place money in the race for wastage by coming third with 30 delegations and Rs. 6,95,291 spent on them. The people who travelled under this banner were mostly industrialists who brought home several lucrative agencies for their sons, nephews and sons-in-law. That was a definite gain for their families, though our people will never share it.

Thus these three Ministries together accounted for over 58 per cent of the total pool of Rs. 38.66 lakhs. That is why they are called important ministries. To give 734 people a picnic overseas it cost us Rs. 38.66 lakhs. To give a similar picnic to our 360 million people it will cost us over Rs. 2,00,00,000 lakhs. As we don't have all this money, we can send out only favourites. Our various ministers, therefore, had 734 fortunate favourites in the year of our Lord 1956-57. If Dr. Keskar's Ministry prints photographs of these fortunate 734 for the family altars of the unfortunate ones, millions of photographs will be sold in a country where poverty looks with awe and reverence on any white-capped rogue riding in a motor car.

The good fortune of these lucky 734 is only a daydream of millions of our people. It is never going to come true in their lives. Millions of them do not have money enough to buy a handful of rice for a meal. How can they then invest even eight annas on a Gandhi Cap, the master-key to a smiling fortune? Let us, therefore, hold our nose to the grindstone and turn blood into perspiration to send 1,500 favourites of fortune next year to picnics overseas. The people can only be grist to the mill which our "Welfare" State runs. Jai Hind!

A JOB FOR POLICE & RESERVE BANK

Music, the rhythmic expression of Divinity, has no frontiers of cult, clime or country. Be it in the moonlit desert of Arabia or in the man-lit auditorium of the Metropolitan Opera, music throws a man into an ecstasy that gives him a momentary glimpse of Divinity—unless, of course, that man is V. Shantaram on whom even nature has wasted her best melodies.

The musician is therefore a citizen of the world and should be welcome anywhere where there is a heart ready to vibrate to the notes of melody. But in the modern world music is bought and sold and has become an article of trade. It earns or loses money for a country. Though there are many great musicians in the world not one of them sings without a fee

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these days. Gone are the days when the human voice sang the songs of the Lord in an ecstasy of love without another ear to hear or a hand to pay. These days the human voice carries songs of lust and love to earn a living. Money has thus purchased the soul of music and dissipated its inherent divinity.

And because money has become the measure of a man's merit, even music has grown barricades of nationalities round it. Thus when we call some musicians from Pakistan to sing for us, we not only pay the musicians but also export our money to Pakistan—a neighbour that lives only to hate our people and country.

In the last six years we have been seeing a number of musicians coming from Pakistan to sing in India. They come in groups of a dozen persons every time, travel all over India, give scores of concerts, enjoy our best hospitality and take home a small fortune to Pakistan—their homeland. Prominent among them are Bade Ghulam Ali, Nazakat Ali, Salamat Ali and Mubarak Ali. Some of these people have taken little fortunes out of India regularly every year. In a single season—and there are two seasons for music every year—Bade Ghulam Ali alone takes home over a lakh of rupees. What he actually earns no one knows.

Now, normally no music lover would object to this if the traffic between India and Pakistan had been a two-way affair. But unfortunately it is not so. While we welcome and honour musicians from Pakistan, extend our best hospitality to them and pay them lavishly and allow them to take the money out of our country, Pakistan does not allow a single Indian musician even to give a concert in Pakistan, leave alone giving him permission to bring his earnings to India.

If this one-way traffic continues—and it has been going on for six years now with part of the money being sent out officially and the rest being smuggled out—we shall soon be a poorer nation than we are already. Is it necessary that Pakistan should also be helped to contribute to our poverty? One wonders what our Reserve Bank of India is doing about this export of money to Pakistan through musicians. Surely, Governor Iyengar knows something about this at least if not about the L.I.C. scandal!

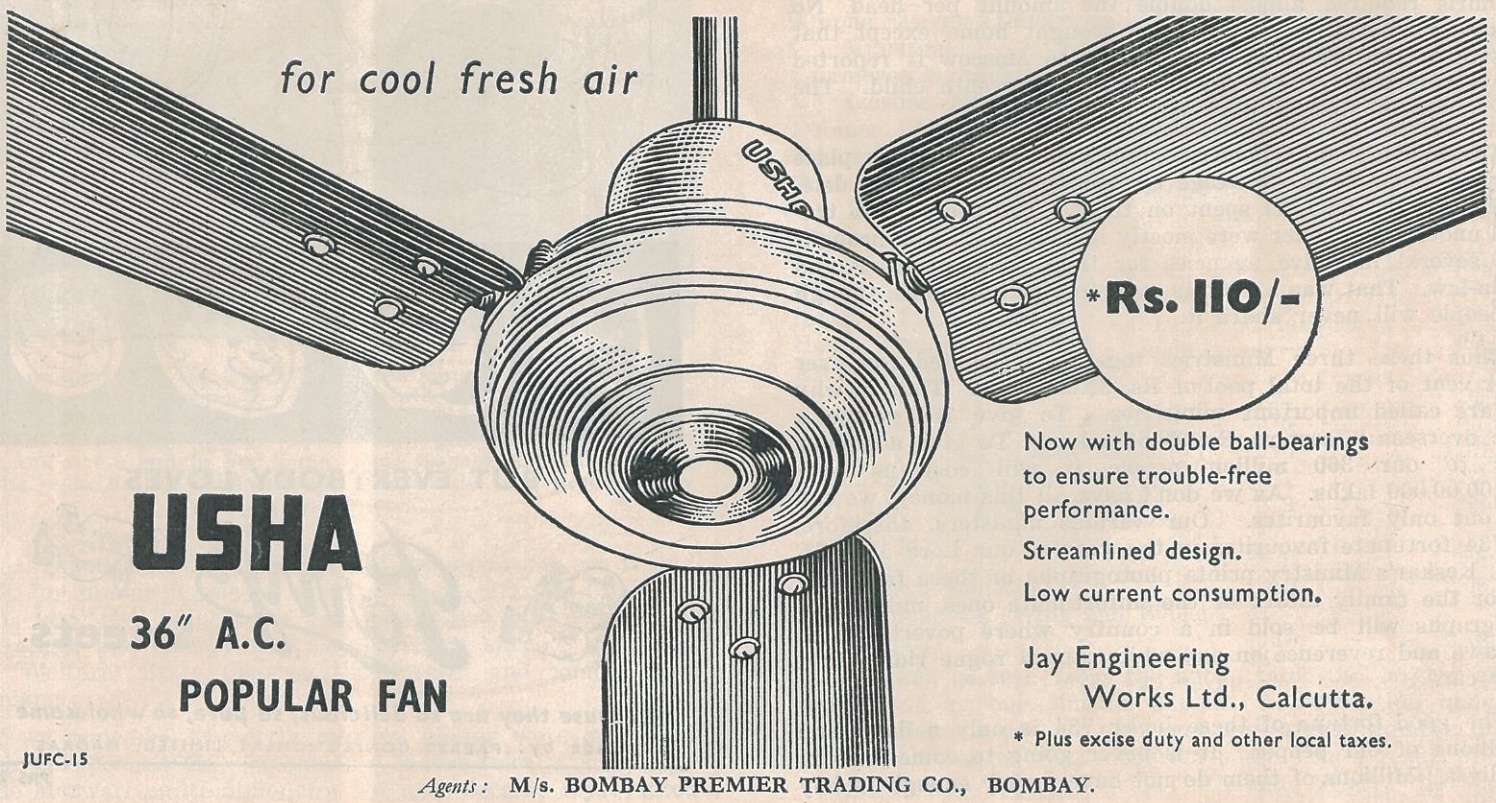
Apart from this regular drainage of our money, has it ever occurred to our Police Department that some of the people who accompany these well-known Pakistani musicians come here for political work and that while the artistes entertain the music lovers, their companions run around the town and sow seeds of political sabotage? It is also possible that part of the money—and a major part of it—earned by the musicians is paid to Pakistan's fifth columnists in India. Pakistan is intelligent enough to employ musicians for political purposes and use India's money for her own destruction. Hatred makes many people subtle and intelligent.

YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE—

THAT Prime Minister Nehru set up a new fashion in New Delhi of being "flat and stale" and his buddy Krishna Menon picked it up to prove that he was also hardworked. During his recent visit to Bhopal, Krishna Menon spent a lot of time in bed and appeared at a State banquet with a corpse's face. When some one kindly asked him when he would recover, Krishna snapped back saying, "It may take as much time as is required to finally decide the Kashmir question". This sick man is going to defend the homes of 360 million people when Pakistan attacks us.

THAT Chandra Bhanu Gupta, the "strong" man of Uttar Pradesh Congress, was again beaten by a P.S.P. candidate in a recent by-election. Last time it was the popular Triloki Singh who beat him but this time a little woman, Mrs. Rajendra Kumari, knocked him out with 7174 votes. Let us hope this thick-skinned Congressman doesn't make a third attempt to rape the electorate and put all Congressmen like us to shame.

THAT at last the old celibates and widowers have managed to rope in a really pretty woman for the treasury benches. 32-year-old Tarakeshwari Sinha, who was sworn in as the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs recently, assessed her value in advance when she kept the President waiting for quite



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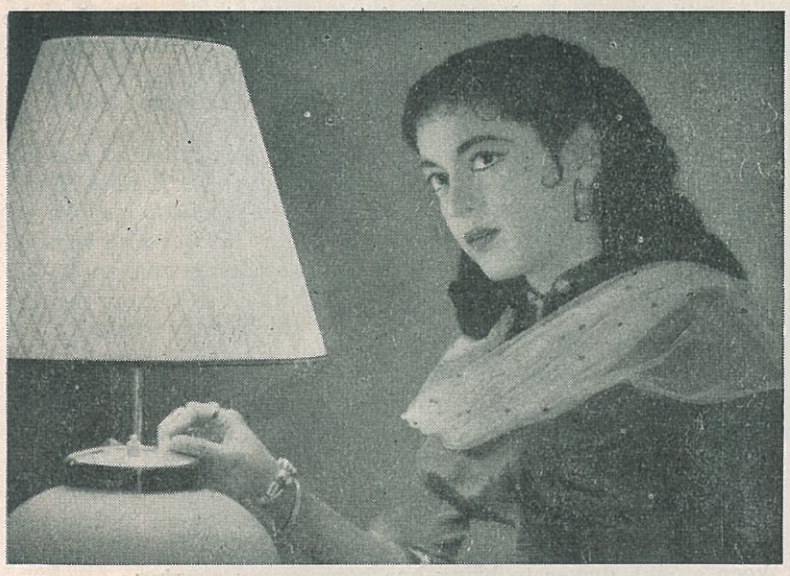

Why do women need a lamp? Don't they see better in the dark? Nalini Jaywant perhaps likes to be sure in "Bombay Race Course", a social story produced by P. R. Films.

some time with the oath paper in hand. Economic Affairs, of course, belong to our popular Finance Minister Morarji Desai.

THAT Government auditors waste a lot of breath unnecessarily over a wastage of lakhs. If the amount runs into crores one can understand their anxiety but wastage up to 99 lakhs, we feel, should be completely ignored with a lofty contempt in a "Welfare" State. We feel that the Public Accounts Committee of Madras unnecessarily got excited in its report of 1955-56 over the lapses of different officials who could not be brought to book because "the relevant papers are stated to have been destroyed." Indeed, a Committee without imagination! Who keeps the paper after eating "bhel-puri" in it?

THAT Sadoba Patil, our Minister for Wheels and Wings, can always be relied upon to be original. One day he said that Americans sell us rotten wheat which they would have destroyed in any case. The other day he discovered that in his ministry a file made 44 stops before it reached its final destination. He has given the files an express route now and reduced the stops to eleven. If Patil counts the stops he had to make before he reached the present ministry, he won't be surprised at the crazy career of a file in our Congress Raj. At every stop the file has to collect a toll in a "Welfare" State.

THAT Chief Minister Nijalingappa confessed in the Mysore Legislative Assembly that an official of the former Mysore State died without getting his pension claim settled even 18 years after his retirement. That was a stupid official. If he is born again he should be killed again for sheer stupidity. Why did he not collect the pension while he was serving as some of the officers did in the L.I.C. scandal?

THAT Gandhiji had the crazy notion that Congress ministers should live in Bhangi colonies. How can that be done in a "Welfare" State where all "welfare" begins with the ministers themselves? Our Congress ministers have to set a good example in good living. The Government of Madras has, therefore, bought a luxurious palace at Ootacamund for five lakhs of rupees where ministers will be sent for periodical air-conditioning. We are all for such investments without which we cannot show the damn Mahroojas that our Congressmen can also use palaces. We suggest that the palace should also be furnished with a few dancing girls. After all we must capture the old atmosphere.

THAT whenever Indians deal with the French they always get the wrong end of things in hand. That is a peculiarity of everything French. Not knowing this French peculiarity our Congress rulers started the Bharat Electronics Factory in collaboration with a French company spending numerous lakhs of rupees. Now they discovered that French fittings are not popular in India and no one is giving orders. So a plant that was to turn out 50 lakhs of rupees worth of equipment produced stuff worth 1.47 lakhs during the first year and instead of stuff worth Rs. 200 lakhs in the second year turned out only Rs. 20.42 lakhs of goods. Why not produce popular rubber goods if the electronic goods are not wanted by the people?

THAT of all people Prime Minister Nehru gave a wonderful certificate of merit to Balu Keskar, his Broadcasting Minister. Describing All India Radio's Hindi versions of his speeches in Hindi, Nehru said, "They ought to be convicted for murder. This is a murder of the language. It is much worse than murdering the individual." Now Balu Keskar deserves a Padma Vibhushan. Or do you think Bharat Ratna will be more deserving? After all Balu has caught the big man's eye in the midst of so many sycophants.

THAT for the next Olympics we must send Bishnuram Medhi, the 60-and-odd-year-old Governor of Madras. Medhi recently beat Chief Minister Kamraj Nadar in a walking race held in connection with the Legislators' Hostel Day celebrations. And this was the man who, we were told, was too sick to continue to be the Chief Minister of Assam. Wonder whether Medhi was chased by some D.M.K. hounds during the race.

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THAT finding that even "pattawallas" could not recognize the honourable members of the Madras Legislative Assembly, the Government of Madras has issued identity cards to all members with their photographs and names on the cards. But unless these cards are hung round the neck, how can the salutes of "pattawallas" be guaranteed? After all "pattawallas" belong to a race with eyes that can see only small currency notes.

THAT India, that is Bharat, has a surplus of so many things. Ram Rajya monkeys, corrupt Congressmen, consumptive cradle-criers, colourful celibates, sprightly spinsters and wizened widowers are all found in abundance. And now in the Orissa Legislative Assembly, Communist Harihar Das sought to pass a motion of adjournment because "bugs interfered with the honourable members of the House." The Speaker disallowed the motion and guaranteed the sovereignty of the bugs. If Mundhras can thrive, why not bugs?

THAT once again Jayaprakash Narayan thought loudly. Said J.P., "It would be wise for Mr. Nehru to retire from Premiership and to place someone of his choice in that high office and guide the destinies of the nation from outside." The man of Nehru's choice is, of course, Jayaprakash but J.P. belongs to our Land Survey Department.

THAT Professor Ram Joshi, the Chairman of the Municipal Education Committee of Bombay, said that in spite of eleven years of independence 52,000 children of 'compulsory age group' were not going to any school in the city. This Professor has no imagination. He should know that those 52,000 within a few years will be so many solid Congress voters. Why did Nehru weep so much over Maulana Azad our late Education Minister? The reason was that Maulana won the second election for the Congress by spending and wasting money in foreign delegations and keeping education away from our people. See what happened in Kerala where there is 100% literacy!

THAT in their vindictive ambition to shift the clock back to Ram Rajya, our Congress rulers have renamed 110 places in India since August 1953, Uttar Pradesh heading the list with 29 baptisms with Benares becoming "Varanasi", Gandhawal becoming "Gandharvapur" etc. But they don't seem to have informed the postman about it because when a letter was sent to Varanasi, it returned with the remark, "Not known in India. Try Russia". The fellow thought Varanasi was the brother of Afanasi.

THAT the Government of Madras has recently given birth to a new profession by offering gold medals to marriage brokers who will bring off matches between Harijans and caste Hindus. The Class I gold medal will be worth Rs. 100 while the Class II will be worth Rs. 50. We suppose the Class II medal is intended to be given to those who help to legalize an affair between an Iyengar employer and a Naidu maid. What about medals for those who arrange short-time marriages?

THAT Jai Chand Jain of "Filmfare", who spends a lot of money every year to bring our stars to the notice of his favourite 1000 guests of Bombay, also manages to expose them every year rather rudely. In his recent annual function a skit called, "Padma Shri", played by the film artistes themselves, the artistes confessed that they took black money to evade income tax and that after "Padma Shri" the amount of black money per picture had gone up by Rs. 50,000|-. As there is only one "Padma Shri" in the film industry so far, Nargis, who was one of the "Filmfare Award" winners, put her head down in shame and Dilip Kumar walked out of the auditorium and had to be coaxed back to his seat by Jain. After this confession the Income Tax Officer cannot be blamed if he makes some arbitrary assessments. This is a case of dogs eating their own pups.

THAT film actors and actresses have now taken to making public speeches. While Dilip Kumar addressed a "Ladies' Day" at the Rotary Club, his ex-heroine Kamini Kaushal spoke on "Acting In Films" at the Green's Hotel. Raj Kapoor also vomited a bit of his bile before the Commerce students and so it will go on till Mukri will one day demand the lunch hour at the Rotary Club. That will be the end of the Rotary Club.

THAT talking about herself and her own great art of losing herself completely in her role, Kamini Kaushal said, "I have never dared to take the risk of driving a car. I am in the habit of forgetting the world around and getting absorbed in the role I am playing." We confirm this fully because the old girl has forgotten the world so completely and lost herself in her role so often, even outside the screen, that her husband had to keep a Sikh driver to bring her home every evening.

THAT 21-year-old, six-foot tall actor, Phiroze, a Persian by birth, has been recently giving new dreams to many film actresses. Rumour says that our 5' 6" Nutan has been actually seeing rainbows with eyes closed. Let us hope that the dewdrops of hope don't turn into tear drops of repentance.

THAT when Producer-director Shantaram flew to New Delhi for the President's Award he took his dancing heroine Sandhya also with him though no particular award was announced for her. And Sandhya displayed a grand touch of humility by touching the feet of Dr. Rajendra Prasad instead of the usual hand-folding "namaste". A regular "Surya Namaskar" would have been more in keeping with the exaggerated Shantaram "touch" and would have matched well with Shantaram's own khadi dress and Gandhi cap worn for the occasion.

THAT Mahendranath, the major shareholder of Children's Film Society Private Unlimited, thinks that the judges who gave the Prime Minister's Gold Medal for the first time to "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke", a children's film produced by AVM, insulted Nehru's Government by ignoring the specialized children's productions turned out by himself for his Society. Mahendranath also feels that Nehru shook the very foundation of his own Government by calling Producer Meiyappan Chettiar to breakfast at the Prime Minister's house. Mahendranath is reported to have briefed Dr. Kunzru to table a no-confidence motion against the Nehru Government.

THAT film actor Suresh, who had disappeared from Bombay for sometime, has come back to the city saying that he killed two tigers in one morning. Two Multan moneylenders unkindly remarked that the great sporting event took place the day Suresh disappeared from Bombay. The chaps are now searching for their own skins.

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NARGIS—

In a woman poise is often all her beauty. Not all women are cast in the mould of Venus and yet there are many women whose very presence brings consolation to an aching heart. Nargis gives another good performance in "Lajwanti", a social theme directed by Narendra Suri and produced by Mohan Segal for De Lux Films.

Epidemics In India IX

CHICKEN-POX

A POPULAR AFFLICTION

Chicken-pox is a mild and popular disease. It is so popular that probably one child in a thousand misses it and we therefore, find it all over the world. Children seem to embrace it willingly the way almost every child under 10 catches it. But mild though it is, Chicken-pox is an acutely infectious disease which is spread by direct contact, by fomites and through air. The most popular spots for catching the infection are schools, playgrounds, hospital wards, crowded trains and theatres.

As usual allopathic scientists say that this disease is due to a virus. Mercifully they have not given the virus a Christian name. We are not concerned with this allopathic baptism. It is enough to know that Chicken-pox is an infectious disease which is spread from child to child and though, normally not dangerous, it does sometimes lead to complications which allopaths describe as nephritis, laryngitis, bronchopneumonia, encephalomyelitis, conjunctivitis and otitis media. All these names merely mean that the disease sometimes affects the eye, the ear, the throat, the chest and the kidneys in a manner serious enough to change the child's habitation.

THE DISEASE PICTURE

The onset of the disease is modest. There is no sound or fury about it. The child runs up to the mother and says, "Oh, mummy I am not so well. My head is paining." He, sometimes, shivers a little. The mother touches the child and finds a little feverishness. The throat is clear. It is not red or sore. At this stage no one can say what it is.

A day or two later a scarlet rash appears in the centre of the body—the back first, then the chest and then the abdomen. The rash is a thick cluster on these spots and quickly spreads to the legs, forearms, hands and feet, scalp and upper parts but as it spreads, the rash becomes more sparse—the greatest profusion being upon the covered skin. There is a little fever, a good headache and some shivering. The eyes are often quite red. By next day little vesicles are formed. The vesicles soon reveal a little watery fluid in them. Within 48 hours the vesicles start drying up forming crusts or scabs, leaving some white spots for a while but no permanent scars. This process goes on in crops which appear one after another in the first seven days. The vesicles are oval and of varying size. They have a small red areola. They feel smooth and are superficial. On the scalp, hands and feet they are a little deeper. The skin irritates intensely when the rash is profuse. **The child must not be allowed to scratch the spots.**

There are a couple of other varieties in Chicken-pox:—the Haemorrhagic, in which the mucous membranes bleed, and the Gangrenous, in which there is a necrosis of the skin and subcutaneous tissues. The first variety is rare and is not necessarily fatal. The second variety is found in debilitated children and is usually fatal. You will thus see that Chicken-pox is not as harmless as one thinks it to be, apart from the complications previously mentioned. It can change the residence of the little one pretty quickly.

Allopathy has no treatment for this acutely infectious disease. Dr. W. N. Mann, the Queen's physician, in his book "Textbook of Medicine" says: "Confinement to bed for a few days is all that is needed in the great majority of cases." I must say that rest in bed is the safest prescription which allopathy can give without any after-effects. But mere bed rest without any drugs to help the patient puts a little more strain on nature to combat the disease and that is why perhaps allopathic physicians stumble over so many complications even in an apparently simple and none-too-serious disease like Chicken-pox.

Fortunately, homoeopathy has effectively solved the problem of treating patients suffering from Chicken-pox. But before I come to the actual disease as established by a scarlet rash or a watery vesicle, I want to tell the devoted mother what to do when the child comes with symptoms of **fever** and restlessness right in the beginning. All that a mother need do is to give the child a dose of two to four pills of **"Aconite Nap 3x"** every 2 hours till the fever subsides. If the child complains of **headache** and has a **flushed face** and **dry and hot skin,** she should give him a dose of **"Belladonna 3x"** every 3 hours. It is quite likely that one of the two short and quick acting medicines will abort the trouble on the very first day.

If that does not happen, then mother does not require a doctor to diagnose Chicken-pox, for within a day the disease announces its arrival by a distinctive scarlet rash quickly followed by watery vesicles. That brings us to the homoeopathic treatment of Chicken-pox proper.

THE DRUG PICTURES

For Chicken-pox, I have evolved a system of my own for treating the disease. I have rarely had the first case in a season or locality. My little patient has always been at least the second one if not further down in number. The mother has almost always told me that some other child in the neighbourhood had had an attack of Chicken-pox and her child had got it from the other child. Though, sometimes, I see no other symptoms but a little feverishness and a sleepy look, I begin the treatment by giving the little one a single dose of "Variolinum 200", and call the child 48 hours later. This remedy almost always cuts short the course of the disease. Sometimes the rash never comes nor do the watery vesicles. In that event the child is cured. But if the child does come with a well-established rash then I prescribe one of the following remedies, selected according to the symptoms.

Rhus Tox 12: Scarlet rash, watery vesicles, **intense itching, worse during sleep,** restless, trembling and fever. This remedy generally sees the case through. **Dose:** 2 to 4 pills three times a day.

Antimonium Tart 12: The scarlet rash is there but the watery vesicles look **bluish-red.** The eruption is **tardy**—it seems to recede. This remedy accelerates it—brings it out. The cough has a bronchial sound. It is bronchitis. The face is **pale, blue,** covered with cold sweat and yet, the child is feverish. The condition is **lethargic, drowsy. Dose:** 2 to 4 pills every 4 hours.

Mercurius Sol 6: All the previous symptoms are there—the rash, the watery vesicles, etc. But sometimes the vesicles **suppurate.** When they do, you switch on to this remedy. **Profuse perspiration without relief** is also an important symptom of this remedy. **Tremb-**

In a hot country like India the dress must also contribute to the air-conditioning of the woman. It would be a pity to cover long arms with coarse cloth. Shubha Khote opens her wings attractively in "Ek Shola", a sensational love theme produced by Deep and Pradeep Productions.

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ling hands with eyes discharging profusely. The child wants **cold water. Dose:** 2 to 4 pills three times a day.

Apis Mel 6: The eruption is there but the itching is excessive. You perhaps see a little swelling on the hands or feet. Well, give a dose of this remedy and the child will feel better. **Dose:** 2 to 4 pills once during the day.

Keep the child in bed and on milk diet. If he doesn't like milk give it to him as a thin porridge of Quaker Oats. Bathe the body with warm water adding a few grains of Potassium Permanganate—just a little pink water. Avoid exposing the child but keep the room cool and well-ventilated. When the itching is excessive apply a very thin film of "Calendula Ointment", available from any homoeopathic chemist.

After recovery every child feels rather weak and exhausted. Put him for a month on Quaker Oats and "Avena Sativa" a homoeopathic tonic—10 drops three times a day in a little hot water. That will make the child hale and hearty once again.

The medicines mentioned above can be had in pills (Size No. 30) or in liquid form. Under all circumstances the drugs should be bought from reliable homoeopathic chemists. Potentized drugs are never found with allopathic chemists and sellers of patent medicines.

No coffee should be taken during homoeopathic medication.

Those who use these remedies as a result of this article are requested to send me as detailed a report as possible of their experience explaining the circumstances under which the drugs were used and with what result. An intelligent and truthful report will help me in further research, particularly if the symptoms peculiar to the patient are closely observed and noted down. Such reports may be posted separately marked, "Personal", to me at 55, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road, Fort, Bombay 1.

18.4.1958 Baburao Patel

RECORDS TO BUY

"CHANDAN"
(Music Director: Madan Mohan)

No. 52565 (Asha Bhosle)
"Chahe lakh zamana roke"
Though reminiscent of that popular hit from "Daag", (Dekho kaisa ye aaya zamana) this tune still attracts because of the lively way in which Asha sings it. On the other side is "Jab thora thora", a bright song to exhilarate tired nerves.

No. 52566 (Geeta Dutt)
"Ankh milane ke liye"
Here is a 'must' for Geeta's fans. It is a breezy tune well sung with the requisite pep. On the other side is "Bade hi c.i.d. hai" sung by Mohd Rafi with some jazzy rhythm.

No. 52567 (Kishore Kumar)
"Bhare paday hain is duniya men"
This one is good to brighten up a dreary atmosphere.

"KABHI ANDHERA KABHI UJALA"
(Music Director: O. P. Nayyar)

No. 52562 (Asha Bhosle)
"Sonay de balam main jaagi"
The old famous Dadra in Bhairavi has been cast in a new film mould and in a new melody quite successfully. On the other side Asha sings "Ladayen saiyan naina"—a song which contains an open invitation to wink.

No. 52563 (Kishore Kumar)
"Surma mera nirala"
If you like a staccato rhythm mixed with some yodelling, you may go in for this one.

No. 52561 (Asha Bhosle)
"Ajab hamari zindagani"
This one has a soothing effect because of its simple musical notes. On the other side is "Bhagwan tujhe rote-huay dil" sung by Asha—a high-pitched prayer to God.

"TUMSA NAHIN DEKHA"
(Music Director: O. P. Nayyar)

No. 52568 (Mohd Rafi & Asha)
"Aaye hain door se"
Here is a pleasing duet for those who want to indulge in some love-making.

"JASOOS"
(Music Director: Anil Biswas)

No. 52576 (Asha Bhosle)
"Tum kahe ko nha lagay"
With some distinctive touches of Tilang and adapted from the well-known thumri of the same melody, it has a particular appeal for those who love classical music. On the other side Geeta Dutt sings: "Ho ho, ha ha". This song has a generous quota of ha ha, hu hu, etc, sounding frivolous at times.

No. 52578 (Talat Mahmood)
"Jeevan hai madhuban"
This is in a sad strain for an introspective mood. On the other side is a catchy chorus "Chhoo mat angaray hain" led by Geeta Dutt.

"SOLVA SAAL"
(Music Director: S. D. Burman)

No. 52573 (Hemant Kumar)
"Hai apna dil to aawara"
Easy to sing and with popular words, this tune is meant essentially for bathroom singers.

SHYAMA—

A woman looks pleasant by design. She has to plan the expression in advance unless, ofcourse, she is already in love with the man. But when a woman merely wears a pleasant expression she means nothing. She just wants to wear a mask that won't make her face look unpleasant. Shyama brings a pretty and pleasant face to the screen in "Khota Paisa", a sensational social tale produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

MESSIAH IN MAKING

Though there are so many religions in the world today to fascinate different types of human beings, there is still so much strife and bitterness. But man's search for God is as endless as humanity itself. Every time an imaginative thinker comes along, a new religion is born, carrying in its sweep the disgruntled and the unhappy ones.

In Rio de Janeiro, a new Messiah, Alziro Zarur, has begun to thrill a quarter million Brazilians with his new religious movement which he calls Boa Vontade meaning Good Will. This religion is a stew of Catholic symbols and African superstitions and seems to appeal to his followers. Zarur, a popular radio writer, struck on Boa Vontade in a cafe in 1949 when he saw "the figure of a Catholic priest appear, then disappear."

Zarur's religion has the necessary financial backing for the Good Will Legion owns a radio station, two magazines and costly Rio real estate. It has 24 aims some of them being fighting illiteracy, rehabilitating delinquent girls, etc.

Zarur, who had taken the vow of celibacy to build up the Legion, now says: "The work is done. Jesus told me that celibacy is no longer necessary."

The Catholic Church is very much agitated because Zarur calls himself a reincarnation of St. Francis of Assisi.

But Zarur is unruffled. Anyway as long as the Legion does humanitarian work, the label shouldn't matter.

MIXING COLOURS

Though the Britishers are by nature cold and conservative, yet there is a steady inflow of migrants into Britain from the British Commonwealth at the rate of about 40,000 a year.

A statement regarding these migrants was made in the House of Commons on April 3, 1958. The facts are that Britain has a total coloured population of 190,000 including 100,000 West Indians and a total of 50,000 Indians and Pakistanis.

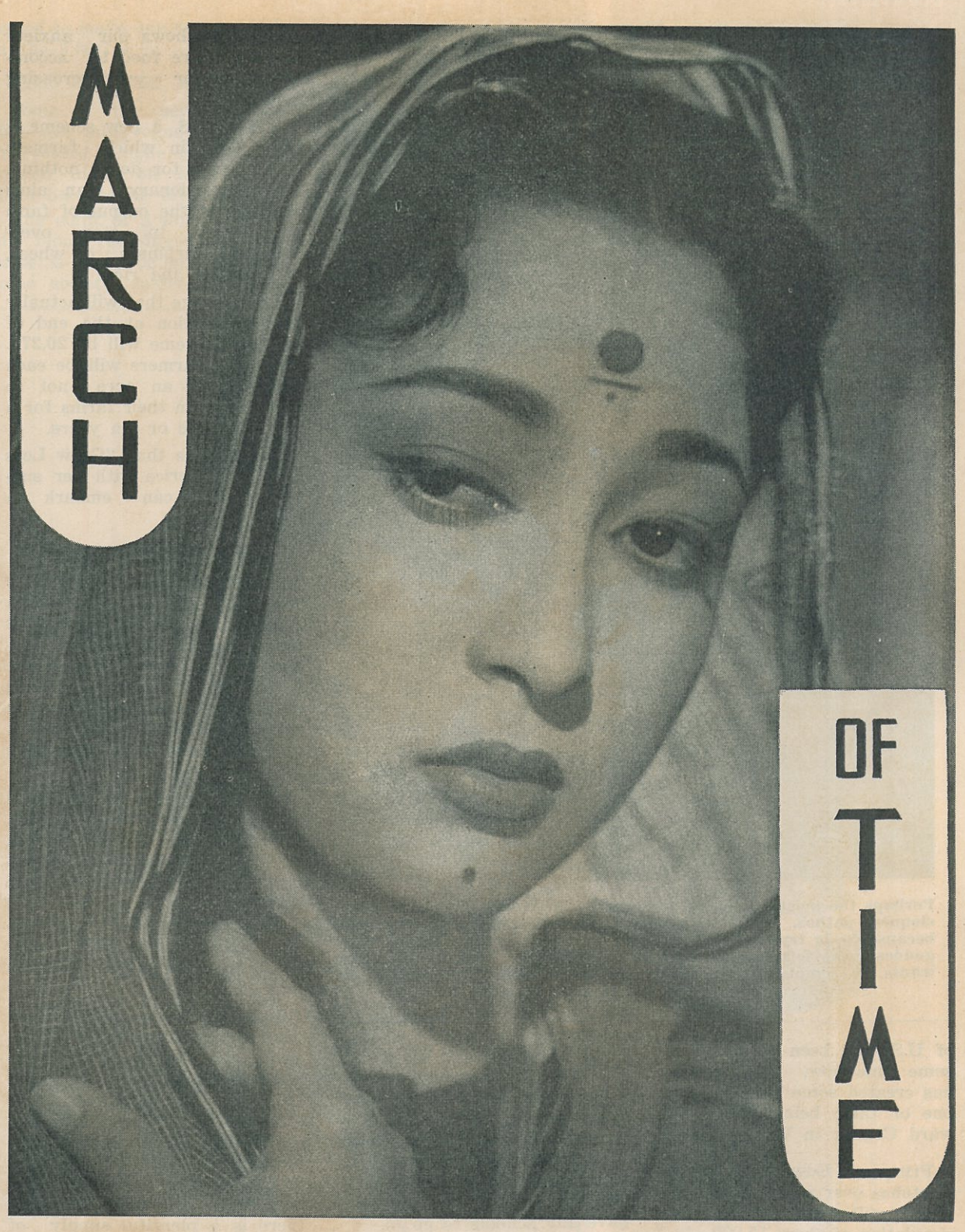
What worries Britain most is the accommodation problem, the housing problem being still acute. In other respects the migrants are not a source of worry because they have not made demands on the National Health Services or the National Assistance Board which grants State aid to the needy.

Said a Conservative member of Parliament, Mr. Martin Lindsay: "We are starting on the road to becoming a multi-racial country. We should not lay ourselves open to the colour problem which we see in countries such as South Africa and the U.S.A."

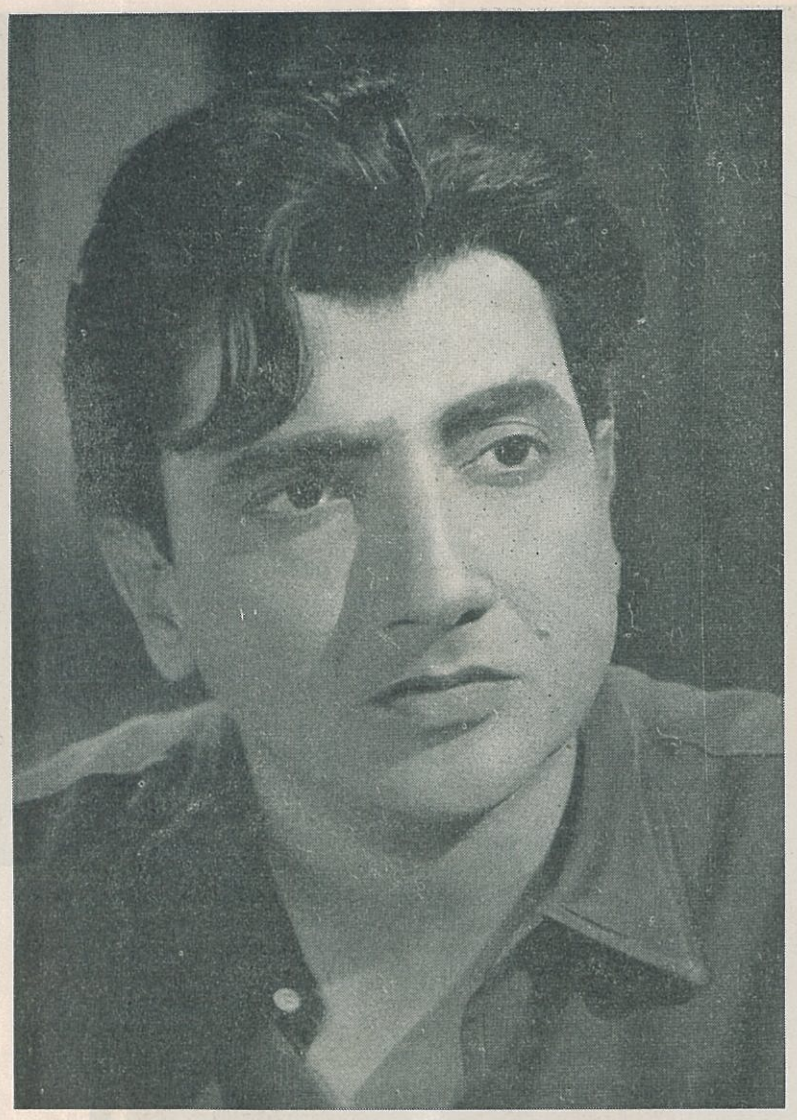
The Britishers seem to be anxious to put democracy into real practice.

'PRINCES' OF EDWARD COUNTY

While integration of public schools in the Southern States



The intoxication of youth weighs heavily on the eyelids of a woman. They always remain half-closed giving the eyes a bedroom look. And then the world begins to misunderstand what perhaps is an innocent phenomenon of an age anxiously watched by all. Mala Sinha brings new youth to the screen in "Phir Subha Hogi", a sensational social theme directed by Ramesh Saigal.



Perhaps the most handsome widower in the world! His eyes have eloquent pathos. He is searching for a mate but cannot find one because he is trying to find an idol for the vacant pedestal of a goddess who left him in a hurry. Evidently Bharat Bhushan wants his temple to be tenanted again in "Kal Hamara Hai", a social theme.

of U.S. has been going on for some time now, the process has created some trouble spots, one of them being Prince Edward County in Virginia State.

Prince Edward County stretches over a distance of 357 square miles and has a total population of about 15,000—half white, and half Negro. There are 13 Negro schools and 7 white ones.

In 1955 when desegregation of public schools was ordered by the Supreme Court, the whites found a way out of maintaining their superiority. They closed all public schools. They collected funds and formed the Prince Edward Education Corporation. This Corporation ran the private schools for white children.

Now with the Supreme Court again rushing them, the air is tense. The education of white school children is secure in the private schools but what about the Negroes? They just won't have any schools to go to.

It is a shame to practise such discrimination in a democracy but evidently there are ways of circumventing the law. The whites probably feel they are the modern-day princes of Prince Edward County.

GROW LESS FOOD

We have been shouting ourselves hoarse over "Grow More Food" since independence. Though the slogan is a mere mirage, it shows our anxiety to grow more food to accommodate our ever-increasing population.

But in U.S. a new scheme is being tried in which farmers will be paid for doing nothing. The revolutionary plan aims at reducing the output of farm productions to stop overmounting surpluses of wheat, corn, cotton and rice.

The acreage that will actually stop production at the end of the trial scheme will be 20,273. Some 354 farmers will be each paid $11.57 an acre not to grow crops in their farms for a period of five or ten years.

The idea is thus "Grow Less Food." America with her surpluses alone can embark on such a policy.

BABY BLACKMARKET

Blackmarketing of babies is something unheard of in India where every second woman is fertile enough to produce babies by the dozen. But in the U.S. where there are thousands of childless couples eager to rear up children, baby black markets have been operating for years.

Miss Mildred Arnold, an official of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, told a Congressional committee recently that intermediaries were charging anything between 1000 dollars and 4500 dollars for babies. Racketeers sold nearly 10,000 babies a year to childless couples.

This is one way of absorbing the unfortunate orphans of society. But the undue profiteering part of it seems criminal. This scandal attracted much attention in 1955 and 1956 and there were Congressional investigations. But it is a vicious circle and the authorities appear to be helpless. Evidently there is a plentiful supply of babies waiting to be disposed of.

UNTYING THE NOOSE

When a multi-millionaire decides to get rid of a wife he often pays through the nose for his freedom. No wonder then, alimony in the U.S. has become a regular nightmare, taking the kick out of married life for most men. A bedmate has thus to be literally weighed in dollars under these galling circumstances.

Recently the Supreme Court of U.S. decided on the divorce settlement of 'Bobo' Rockefeller, wife of Winthrop Rockefeller, one of America's fabulously rich men. Bobo will receive $2,393,000 in cash (tax-free) and trust funds amounting to $1,500,000. Her son, Winthrop Jr., gets trust funds amounting to $2,500,000.

This is said to be the biggest alimony ever paid in the U.S. And Bobo was the daughter of a poor coal miner before she collided with her 'Midas'. Now she can rest in peace not only for the rest of her life but also for births to come.

PRICE OF STERILITY

In a monarchy a male heir is the one thing that makes the queen's position safe. But in case of 25-year-old Queen Soraya married to the Shah of Iran for seven years, sterility has haunted her all along. And now she has had to pay for her barrenness rather dearly with a divorce.

On April 5, 1958, the Shah of Iran signed the documents finalizing their divorce and sent them to Cologne with Mr. Mohammed Ali Hedayati, where Soraya is staying. Queen Soraya will receive a settlement of 10,000,000 rials (£50,000 sterling) and a monthly allowance of about 1,500 rials under the terms of her divorce. She was, however, entitled to call herself a princess.

But what is a princess cut away from a prince and shorn of her queenly splendour?

KINDNESS REWARDED

Riches and crankiness often go together but what looks like crankiness is sometimes wisdom in disguise. And the rich man knows best how to unburden himself before he leaves the world.

Recently James Sexton, a Texan oil magnate, died at the age of 74, leaving behind a will which exasperated his relatives. His was a prodigious fortune of 378 oil wells and 9000 acres of cattle ranch. But behind the will lies a human story with a moral for the greedy.

Four years ago, Mrs. Agnes Kirk, a 36-year-old kindly

nurse, looked after James when he was operated. He expressed his gratitude by giving her a cheque of $100,000. His jealous relatives saw to it that Agnes didn't cash the cheque.

But James Sexton's mind was working on the quiet all the time. When he died at 74, he did his relatives—a sister and four nieces—in the eye by willing $5,000,000 to Agnes. The relatives got only 100 dollars each! Kindness moved the old man to magnanimity—not the plotting and planning.

HELPING HAND

In an attempt to stem the tide of Communism in Asia and the Far East, the United States have lent a helping hand to some of the Asian countries. The aid has been generous in contrast to Soviet aid though the Soviet demonstration of Hindi-Russi-Bhai-Bhai is more colourful than the Yankee show.

According to a U.N. survey of World Economic Aid, India received U.S. aid to the value of 250,000,000 during the years 1954-57. Apart from India and Pakistan, the principal recipients of aid in Asia and the Far East included South Korea, 680,000,000 dollars and Nationalist China 220,000,000 dollars.

Whatever be our differences with U.S., it is still the only country with riches and resources to come to our rescue. To prove its sincerity, U.S. has again risen to the occasion and granted India another loan recently to make our second Five-Year Plan a success.

NEW ALPHABETICAL COMBINATION

As if there were not enough U.N. agencies, one more—the inter-governmental maritime organization, I.M.C.O., was formed on April 4, 1958.

The constitution of I.M.C.O. was laid down in 1948 by a convention adopted in Geneva and was to come into force when 21 nations, including seven with a merchant fleet of one million tons or more, had become members. Japan became a member on March 17, 1958, and I.M.C.O. was born.

Japan, being the world's most important ship-builder, is bound to make her presence felt in the I.M.C.O.

THE BIZARRE SCHEME

Some of the new fashions that get into vogue are often an eyesore to male eyes but the women insist on sticking to them because of their novelty.

The sight of a woman sporting blood red finger and toenails is bad enough but now some society dames use two-toned nails in stripes, polka dots, arrow heads and other funny designs. And the colours are: blacks, silvers, greens, blues, oranges and of course reds.

As long as the women don't scratch with their nails, their new colour scheme can't do any harm to the men.

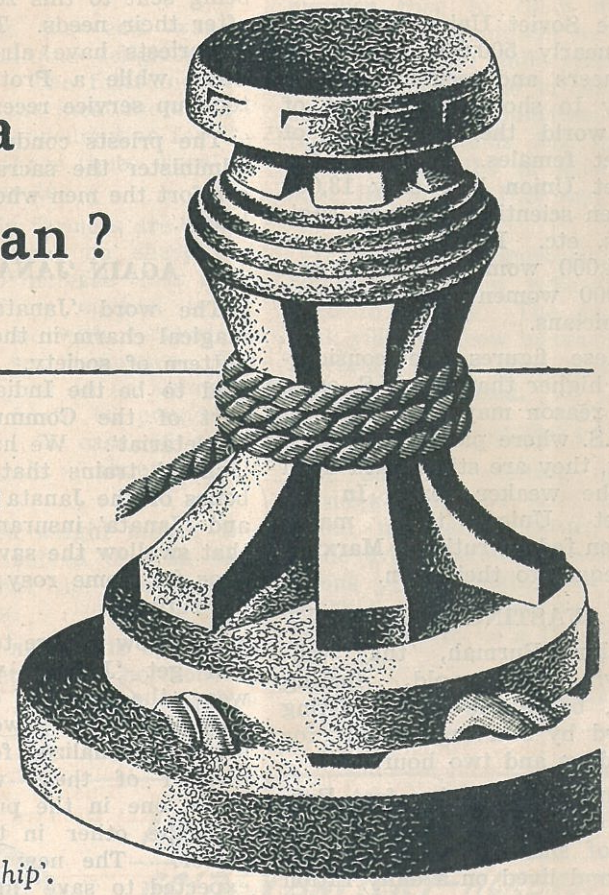
A FEMALE AT SEA

These days women are occupying quite a few posts which in old times were the exclusive monopoly of men. The bold and enterprising amongst Eve's descendants are thus a challenge to the modern men.

For the first time in the history of the Swedish merchant marine, a woman was granted a captain's certificate to command coastal vessels in the Baltic Sea.

The proud recipient is 40-

What is a Capstan ?



'A Capstan', says the dictionary, *'is an upright machine turned by spokes so as to wind upon it a cable which draws something, generally the anchor on board ship'.*

Not a word about the cigarette !

To most people today, the fame of Capstan cigarettes has overruled the dictionary and the 'upright machine' is familiar because it appears on every tin and packet of Capstan cigarettes. It stands for smoking pleasure at its very best. *Better buy Capstan, they're blended better.*

CAP/326A

year-old Mrs. Stina Lindberg, wife of a Swedish shipowner. She sailed for 7 years before she passed the Captain's examination.

TOUGH FAIR SEX

Though figures of Soviet Russia have always to be taken with a pinch of salt, the report prepared by Professor Konstantin T. Galkin at Lomonosov University in Moscow for U.N.E.S.C.O. is promising in regard to the fair sex.

The Soviet Union has enrolled nearly 500,000 women as engineers and technicians probably to show to the rest of the world the superiority of Soviet females. In 1940 the Soviet Union had only 13,000 women scientists, doctors, engineers, etc. In 1957 there are 1,164,000 women teachers and 480,000 women engineers and technicians.

These figures are considerably higher than the U.S. ones. The reason may be that even in U.S. where plenty of women work, they are still looked upon as the weaker sex. In the Soviet Union their manly women fed on ruthless Marxism are equal to their men.

FASTING FIEND

Fakir Burmah, the well-known 47-year-old fasting fiend, broke the world fasting record by starving himself for 106 days and two hours.

During his fasting feat Burmah enclosed himself in a cage full of snakes and broken bottles and lived on a daily ration of 1 litre of mineral water and 3 litres of salt water. His weight was 147 lbs and has now been reduced to 88 lbs.

This crazy guy has spent a total of 10 years in fasting. He seems to have beaten hollow Gandhiji, the originator of fasts.

SERVING RELIGION

The Arctic zone was once a no-man's land but with the advance of science and aeronautics the Arctic circle also has a part to play in the world. Here are located many electronic outposts, radar systems, etc.—from Alaska to Eastern Canada. And with these go the technicians—human beings who have to brave the cold and suffer loneliness—to keep science living.

These men can't be starved spiritually so clergymen are being sent to this zone to look after their needs. Two Catholic priests have already flown there while a Protestant one took up service recently.

The priests conduct services, administer the sacraments and comfort the men when they feel lonely.

AGAIN 'JANATA'?

The word 'Janata' holds a magical charm in the socialistic pattern of society. It can be said to be the Indian counterpart of the Communist word 'proletariat'. We have already 'Janata' trains that break the bones of the Janata passengers and 'Janata' insurance policies that swallow the savings of the poor for some rosy dreams of the future.

And now we are told that we will get 'Janata' watches to wear, the price of one being only Rs. 100|-. Two schemes are being finalized for the production of these watches in India, one in the public sector and the other in the private sector. The new industry is expected to save three to four crores of rupees of foreign exchange. The Government has also been losing about 25 lakhs a year through smuggling watches.

SILENCING THE CRITICS

In a Communist regime, once you fall out of favour with the top bosses, the awaiting fate is either death or disgrace. All are not lucky that they are snuffed out without a second thought. Some live in disgrace because they dared to criticize the Party openly.

Authoress Ting Ling, China's 53-year-old Stalin Prize Winner, has rubbed it the wrong way with her bosses. She was first branded a 'rightist' in August 1957, then denounced for "individualism and anti-party feeling" and now she is being made to scrub the floors of the Peking headquarters of the Chinese Writers Union. She was also expelled from the Communist Party after 26 years.

Many other professors and senior civil servants who have incurred the wrath of the authorities have been assigned menial tasks as punishment. Nowhere is silence a greater virtue than in the Communist world. The dumb and the brainless need have no fears in such a world.

FLYING FEET

Twenty-three-year-old Marlene Mathews of Sydney, Australia, is a woman with determination. She realized her dream of becoming the world's fastest girl runner by beating Betty Cuthbert, the world and Olympic winner all these years.

Marlene Mathews covered 100 yards in 10.3 seconds. Then she won the 220 yards title in 23.4 seconds, 1|10th of a second faster than the world record.

Marlene has been trying for this championship for the last eight years, and suffered many disappointments before her final victory. She seems to have developed flying feet now.

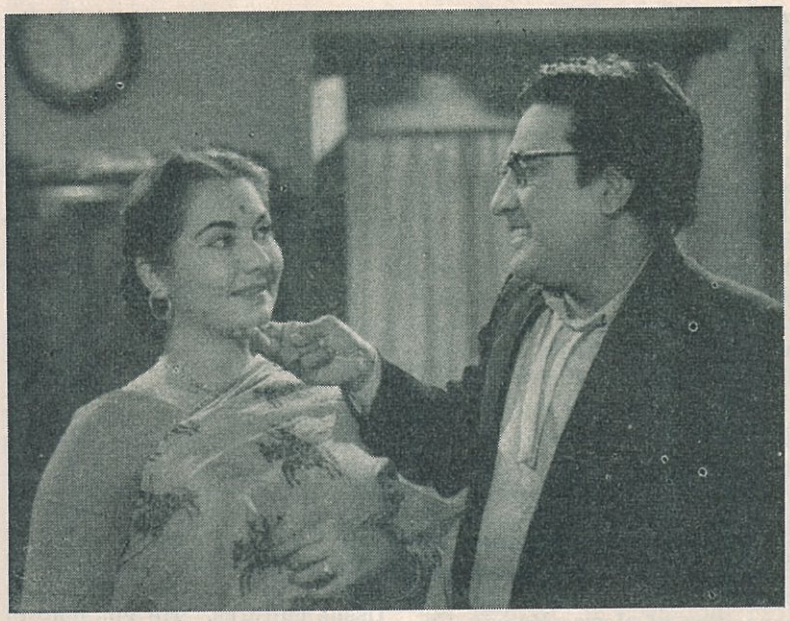
How to approach a woman who looks at you in that position? You can neither shake hands nor do a straight namaskar. These dancing girls are twisting all our old notions of romance. Vyjayantimala gives a sensational performance in "Raj Tilak", a sensational motion picture entertainment produced and directed by S. S. Vasan for Gemini Studios.

TEACHING BY COMPULSION

The old proverb: "You can take a horse to the water but not make it drink" must have been coined by a worldly-wise man. But Communists believe in pressing the horse's nose after pushing it in the water. Compulsion and regimentation are the dominant notes of Communist life.

Recently the Hungarian Ministry of Education decreed that Hungarian students who do not learn their lessons properly should pay a fine.

We doubt if education can be



When a woman gets a double chin the man has to tilt the head up a bit to separate the face from the neck. Manorama, at least, should not be sent on a cultural delegation to America otherwise our wheat supply will be stopped. Let us see how far Radhakishan succeeds in "Lajwanti", a love tale directed by Mohan Saigal.

imbibed through a system of fines. But Communists are never worried. Their dry philosophy has to be rammed down the throats of the masses in different ways.

PARK FOR BLIND

It is not only those with eyes that appreciate beauty. The blind appreciate it just as much if only we care to show them. London, a pioneer city in many respects, has a beautiful park for the recreation of the sightless. It is the only city in the world to have such a park and now Vienna will soon follow in its footsteps.

Vienna's huge park will cover 6,000 square meters of land, a playground for blind children, a garden restaurant, etc. The garden will have no steps so that the blind can move freely without fear of toppling down. They will find their way with the help of guide ropes, smell of particular flowers as also signs bearing inscriptions in Braille-script.

BALANCING SUICIDE LAW

Some members of the British Parliament are contemplating an agitation to change the suicide laws of Britain. An article in "The Lancet" has described the inequity of the suicide law thus: "This outdated law is as inconsistent and inequitable in its application as it is damaging in its effects. Its virtues are hard to discover; its vices are blatant. The sooner it is done away with, the better."

When there is an unsuccessful attempt at suicide, the person is usually sent to prison. This is not social rehabilitation for it only worsens the situation. The members feel that such people should be treated as mental patients rather than criminals.

In Scotland where suicide is not treated as a crime, the suicide rate is only 45 per million as against 79 in England.

Changing a law that has been in operation for hundreds of years is not easy. There will always be people clinging to the old and the ancient systems regardless of modern changed conditions.

HORMONE FATTENING

Fattening the calf was a practice followed religiously in old times. The fattening process made the meat more tasty for human consumption for the people of those times were regular gourmets.

In Britain farmers are trying this experiment on sheep and bullocks to increase their meat output. Their method is by feeding them with hexoestrol, a form of sex hormones. The hexoestrol puts on an animal a weight of 50 to 60 pounds in 100 days. In case of sheep there is a gain of about 8 to 10 pounds.

The extra weight makes the meat fat instead of lean and that is what the average customer likes.

Another method is by inserting a pellet of the hormone in the skin. A bullock requires 60 milligrammes for a single dose, a sheep 15 milligrammes.

QUANTITY WITHOUT QUALITY

The fertility of the Indian women is no secret. Every year thousands of new cradles are added to the already heavy population. But our bovine population also believes in swelling the numbers without improving their quality.

In 1945, we had 176.6 million cattle and buffaloes, in 1951 the number rose to 198.6 million reaching 203.6 million in 1956. But the annual milk yield per cow in India is poor in comparison with other countries. The Indian cow yields 361 lbs as against 3748 lbs in Australia, 5512 lbs in the U.S. and 7848 lbs in Denmark.

It is no use increasing our bovine population without regard to quality. The day the milk yield per cow increases appreciably is the time when we should feel pleased.

MISUSING PSYCHIATRY

In America exciting motion pictures combined with sensational medical literature have made every second person conscious of psychiatry so much so that a small mental upset is imagined to be a frightening 'neurosis'.

Sadly enough nowhere has

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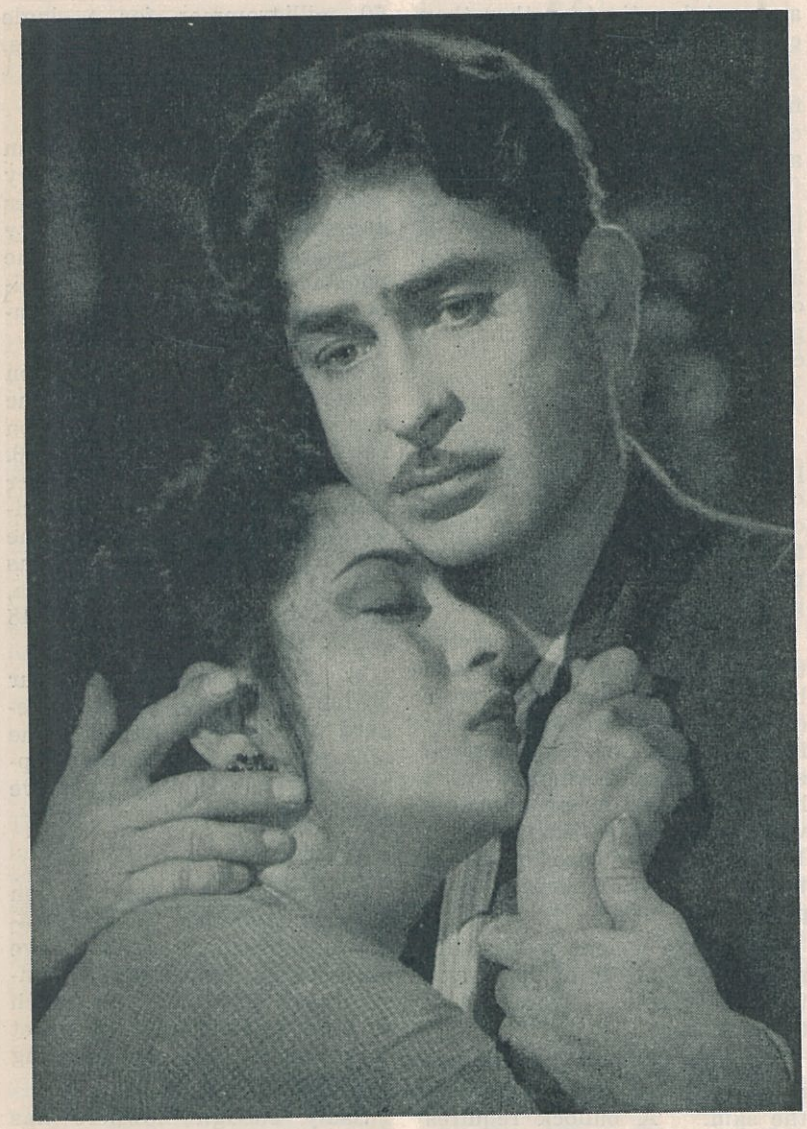


The longer a girl defies a man the closer she clings to him when her resistance is broken. A girl is like a wild mare. She has to be broken in gradually, avoiding her a kick all the time. Raj Kapoor seems to have tamed Mala Sinha at last in "Phir Subha Hogi", a romantic tale produced and directed by Ramesh Saigal.

psychiatry been more abused than in case of normal young children according to Dr. Hilde L. Mosse. In her private practice she found many cases which were described as "childhood schizophrenia" were in reality only common behaviour problems. But because of wrong diagnosis these poor children were sent to mental hospitals, given shock treatment and made worse.

Dr. Mosse is also of the opinion that the 'child schizophrenia' when it does exist can be traced to unfavourable surroundings but not once has it been linked with adult schizophrenia.

A HAPPY PARTING

At a Genoa hospital, surgeons operated on a 40-year-old man for a cyst but what they found was a 15-pound embryonic "twin" inside his body.

The "twin" was male with irregularly developed limbs and long white hair. An artery attached the "twin" to the brother's body.

The "twin" seems to be an embodiment of patience. It lay there quietly for 40 years till an accident got it out. The patient who underwent this operation is now in good health.

PROLONGING LIFE SPAN

The Biblical span of life is three score and ten. That is a long life if one knows how to make full use of his hours. But gerontologists always hope to find out ways and means whereby the human life span can be increased still more.

Two British teams, working at the University of Leeds, have detected in the blood stream an inhibitor that checks the destructive properties of elastase the protein fibre which breaks down the body elastic tissue. They hope to isolate the inhibitor from the blood and thus control the degeneration of arteries. For deterioration in man usually begins with his arteries.

EVERYTHING IN MODERATION

The Yale Centre of Alcoholic Studies U.S., recently conducted a research into the drinking capacities of Jews, Roman Catholics and Protestants and found that Jews have the fewest teetotallers, 13% as against 21% of Roman Catholics and 41% of Protestants.

Regular drinking is indulged in by 23% of Jews, 27% of Catholics and 13% of Protestants. And yet Jews are not alcoholics.

The reason is, according to Professor Charles R. Snyder, that the Jews believe in moderation so that they are not censured by their society. Then their emphasis on food helps them to relieve psychic tensions. The religious ceremonies of Jews involve the drinking of wine right from the eighth day of birth. There is no over-indulgence because "drinking thus occurs in the presence of the most powerful sanctions in Orthodox Jewish life." The less orthodox amongst them do show a tendency towards over-drinking.

The Jews are known for their wisdom and caution. They extend them to their drinks too!

RABBIT WITH FISH-EYE

Grafting of cornea to restore eyesight in human beings has been perfected but transferring cornea from one kind of animal to another is not so easy.

And yet a Japanese ophthalmologist, Dr. Jun Tsutsumi of Okayama Casualty Hospital, grafted successfully the cornea of fish to rabbits restoring their eyesight after a short treatment. The cornea came from mackerel, bonite and yellowtail and it was useful if the fish used had a freshness of two to three days, even if packed in ice.

Dr. Tsutsumi will report his experiment to the 18th International Ophthalmological Congress to be held in Brussels in September.

VACCINE FOR MEASLES

For years virologists have tried to prepare a vaccine for measles but without success. The reason is that the virus of measles grows best in man and not in animals, though monkeys can be infected with it.

However virologist John Franklin Enders of Harvard University kept on trying with tissue cultures. He got hold of a virus strain that had gone through 24 crops in human kidney cells and 28 in cells from amniotic sac. By then it grew in eggs. He grew six crops that way and 14 in chick-cell cultures. This he injected into fresh measles-free monkeys. The virus lived in their throats but didn't multiply in their blood. These monkeys developed antibodies which gave them protection.

Enders' team is now carrying out experiments to make sure that the new vaccine is free from any bad effects.

WARFARIN FOR CLOTS

Anticoagulants are a life-saver in cases of clot formation. Some years ago Heparin was found to be useful in a heart attack or stroke from a thrombus (clot).

A little later Karl Paul Link and his team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin discovered another powerful anticoagulant in rotted sweet clover and called it dicoumarin.

Then they kept on synthesizing a hundred different related substances from rotted sweet clover and stuck on warfarin, which incidentally is a deadly rat poison but absolutely safe for human beings.

Warfarin is thus the newest anticoagulant for clot formation. In case of an overdose, the antidote is a form of Vitamin K. President Eisenhower is reported to be using this drug these days for his heart trouble.

MAKING PLASMA HARMLESS

After four years of research, the University of Cincinnati reported that blood plasma can be rid of the dangerous hepatitis virus if kept at room temperature for six months.

This is a blessing for then the blood plasma can straightaway be used in case of accidents and other casualties. But scientists have still not been able to discover a method whereby whole blood can be freed from hepatitis virus.

In India, of course, we only dream of blood plasma and blood transfusion, these being beyond the purse of the average poor man.

THE NEW MENACE

A crowded hospital with insufficient ventilation and poor antiseptic treatment can become the best breeding ground for the deadly Staphylococcus aureus, a common germ, some strains of which are found to be resistant to most antibiotics.

Recently at Houston's Jefferson Davis crowded hospital, the microbe killed 25 American babies in two months.

The U.S. Communicable Disease Centre has found that the newborn and the weak and the old are particularly susceptible to this 'staph'. Doctors are now busy experimenting with two new antibiotics—vancomycin and kanamycin (developed in Japan)—to fight the new menace.

ADDING STATURE

Dr. Philip Heneman of Harvard University Medical School has found that hormone injections can make dwarfs grow. The pituitary gland from which the hormone is extracted is a small one but the effect it has on the growth of animals and human beings is something remarkable.

Dr. Heneman treated 7 child dwarfs ranging in age from 3 to 13 years whose pituitary gland was removed or not working. In 45 days they grew two centimetres while their normal yearly growth had varied between 1 and 2 centimetres. In case of adults there was not much exterior growth although their bones became thicker and stronger.

The shorties, therefore, needn't despair. If they get hormones in time they may be able to add a few inches to their stature.

ATOMS TO KILL CANCER

A new method of fighting cancer with the help of radioactive atoms in rivers of fluids has been discovered by two Chicago physicians. The atoms give off X-rays that kill the cancerous cells.

Two to six feet of the plastic tubing is wound in and around the cancerous area. This method is to be used when the cancer cannot be removed safely by surgery.

CHEAP DEVICE

Professor Kazuo Hashizume of Nihon University and Dr. Kakuichi Ando of Keio University claim to have invented a simple device, an inexpensive uterine reflector, for detecting cancer of the uterus.

The 30-year-old Kolposcope invented by Dr. Hinselman is a costly affair and out of reach of many Japanese hospitals. It costs 700,000 yen whereas the new device will cost only 20,000 yen.

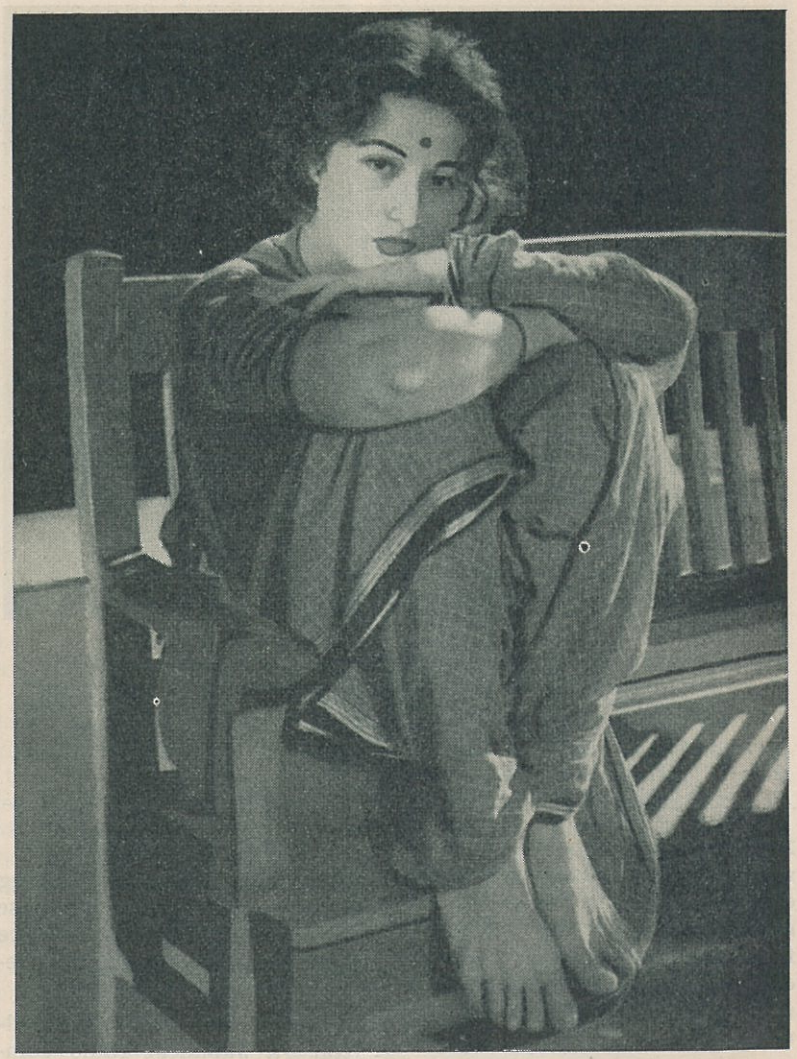
These doctors will demonstrate this useful instrument at the International Gynecological Congress in Montreal soon.

LURING THE FISH

India's long coastline of 3500 miles offers an ideal fishing ground. In the past when the fishing industry was at its zenith, India was a name to be reckoned with. Today efforts are being made to improve the fishing industry and the total production of fish in 1956 was estimated at 1,012,250 metric tons.

The largest catches were from Bombay and Kerala. Out of the total catch in India marine fish accounted for 7,18,697 metric tons and fresh water fish 2,93,553 metric tons. The marine fish landings in 1956 increased by about 20% over the 1955 figures.

There is still much scope for increasing the catch. The present figure of 1,012,250 metric tons for a population of 360-million is a mere chicken feed.



It is not always that a young woman sits in such a mood of defeat and despondence. Here is one who has evidently been waiting too long. But the longer she is made to wait the bigger will be the fireworks, because this catlike pose has a catlike design behind it which is certainly not going to be a toast to the health of the man. Let us see what Madhubala is about in "Kal Hamara Hai", a sensational social theme produced by K. Amarnath Productions.

BLOODLESS FISH

Soviet biologists in an Antarctic expedition came across a rare species of fish whose blood contains no haemoglobin. Eighteen specimens of this new species were captured by the scientists.

Haemoglobin is the colouring matter in the red corpuscles of the blood. This fish seems to be a born anti-Communist for it is averse to the Communist red.

ARTIFICIAL "MUSCLE"

Necessity is the mother of invention goes the old adage. In the case of James McKibben, a nuclear scientist of New Mexico Laboratory, Los Alamos, his 14-year-old daughter paralysed since 1952, became the incentive for developing a new device in which an artificial muscle enables the paralysed hands to grasp.

"The muscle", made on nylon and rubber tubing, was demonstrated in New York recently. The device thought out by McKibben was perfected at the Rehabilitation Centre at Hondo, California.

FROM HEAT TO ELECTRICITY

Mr. Joseph Kaye and Mr. George N. Hatsopoulos of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a new machine capable of converting heat-produced energy directly into electricity.

The device called the hermo-electron engine consists of

That far and no further. In Gandhian India a kiss cannot travel long. It has to die in the air, kissing being considered a crime against Congress culture. Johnny Walker is all ready but Shyama reminds him of Rajghat in "Khota Paisa", a thrilling tale of love produced and directed by M. Sadiq. And Shyama has such kissable lips.

2 metal plates enclosed in a vacuum. Both plates are heated, one more than the other. A stream of electrons flowing from the hotter plate to the cooler one generates an electric current which is tapped by wires running from the plates.

The engine may some day yield electricity from atomic power reactors. These two scientists have applied for a patent on their invention.

SAILING UNDERGROUND

Fifty years ago atomic power was unheard of. Today we have not only enough of atomic bombs but also atomic power that threatens the very existence of humanity. What seems an unreality today thus becomes a reality tomorrow.

According to Vice Admiral Charles B. Momsen of U.S., in the next 10 to 20 years, luxury submarine liners would be carrying 1000 or more passengers across the Atlantic in two days. Within five years, there would be cargo-carrying submarines. And the Vice Admiral has had 41 years experience as a submarine commander. He knows what he is talking. Said he: "Surface travel has a limit because waves hold down speed and comfort."

RADAR SYSTEM

With air accidents getting more and more common these days, warning pilots in advance about stormy weather has become an urgent necessity.

At Dum Dum airport, Calcutta, a Japanese radio company has installed the most modern meteorological radar, said to be the first of its kind, to ensure safe and smooth flight.

When landing becomes difficult and hazardous during stormy weather, the radar will enable jet aircraft to descend away from storm centres and turbulent clouds.

SPUTNIKS OF BHARAT

We dare not compete with Russia's magnificent Sputniks. Even the all-powerful U.S. had to take second place.

But Dr. D. S. Kothari, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Ministry, says that it is possible for India to inject "microscopic Sputniks" into outer space. Some encouraging results have been obtained in the Defence Science Laboratory in New Delhi whereby "microscopic Sputniks" may materialize.

Microscopic or gigantic, let us at least launch a tiny little one to show our manhood for a change. Or is Dr. Kothari only doing some wild day-dreaming?

UNIQUE AEROPLANE

America has designed X-15, the first aeroplane that is capable of penetrating outer space. It will fly a mile a second at altitudes above 100 miles.

The X-15 will be test-flown next year. It will be launched from a B-52 bomber over Utah and land at Edwards Air Force base, California.

UNIFLORAL HONEY

An experimental scheme to extract unifloral honey from sandalwood has been undertaken in the Javadhi Hills in North Arcot district. The hills abound in sandalwood flora.

Unifloral honey is a kind of honey, 60% or more of whose content is selected from a main flora. The unifloral honey already in use are heather honey in England, eucalyptus honey in Australia and orange honey in America.

If the sandalwood honey acquires the medicinal qualities of sandalwood, the honey will have high market value. The picture of 'honey' to the Americans, however, is a sweet-looking girl. They don't bother about her medicinal quality.

WISDOM OF THE ANCIENTS

Quite a bit of the knowledge our ancients had has been buried in the mists of antiquity. That they were conscious of science and its intricacies is proved by some of the ancient structures that have stood the acid test of time. For instance, the monolithic Kailas Temple at Ellora, carved out of a huge stone is a marvel that defies modern achitecture.

Now comes news that the Department of Archaeology, Government of India, has excavated some ancient mounds near Ujjain. At this spot is a wonderful material which when mixed with iron, helps to melt the iron instantaneously. A system of canals, thought to be 3000 years old, has also been unearthed near the excavation site.

Well, our ancient folks were not as primitive and uncivilized as the Western world is at pains to show us nowadays.

NOTICE

In the Matter of :—

Kinema Exchange Ltd. (In Liquidation).

The owners of the following films are invited to take delivery of the prints from the office of the undersigned within 7 days on production of sufficient evidence as to their ownership.

(1) Nira Aur Nanda (2) Gandhiji (3) Bohemian Girl

The owners of the following films are also invited to take delivery of the following prints on payment of their dues to the above company within 7 days from date hereof—

(1) Lottary (2) Naibhabi (3) Dukbir Iman (4) Aye Sotyee (5) Jar Jetha Ghar

In default, all the prints as under (a) and (b) with trailors, flagcuttings, posters, etc. as also some articles of furniture will be sold by public auction by M|s. Dharampal Chadha & Sons at their sale room at No. 3, Madan Street, Calcutta, on 17th May, 1958, at 11 A.M. Intending purchasers may inspect the films at the Films Vault Ltd. at Jadavpur, (near Sulekha Park) on the 15th and 16th May, 1958, between 10 A.M. and 12 noon.

(Sd.) MONOJ GANGULI,
Official Liquidator,
High Court, Calcutta,
P-2, Mission Row Extension,
Calcutta.

Taxation Interferes With Individual Liberties
Wide Powers Vested In Untrained Minds

By

N. A. Palkhivala, Bar-at-Law

1757 and 1857 were historic years in the history of India. 1957 witnessed a landmark, not in the political history of this country, but in its economic and taxation laws. We have, almost without realising it, passed through a revolution so far as taxation laws are concerned. We are perhaps far too near it to realise the full implications of what has recently happened, but history may note 1957 as the most important year in the history of the taxation laws of this country.

The recent changes in the taxation laws may be dealt with under three heads. First, the introduction of new taxes; secondly, amendments which made the existing laws more complicated (if that was possible); and thirdly, more executive control by means of taxation laws over the actions of private individuals.

Among the new taxes, we have the Wealth-tax, the Expenditure-tax and the Capital Gains tax. On a plain and grammatical construction of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, it is not possible to submit, in many cases, a statement of net wealth as required by the Act and state on oath that it is correct. The reason is that in the charging section—(Section 3)—the charge is levied on net wealth; 'net wealth' is defined by Section 2(m) as the excess of the value of assets over liabilities; and the 'value of an asset' is defined by Section 7 as "the price which in the opinion of the Wealth-tax Officer it would fetch if sold in the open market on the valuation date". Since you do not know who will be your Wealth-tax Officer, or what will be his subjective opinion regarding the value of your assets, you do not know what in his opinion will be the extent of your wealth, and consequently in respect of matters like jewels and houses where subjective valuation by different persons may give different results, you cannot truthfully say on oath that what you have submitted is the 'net wealth' as defined by the Wealth-tax Act. What you submit to the Wealth-tax Officer is merely your prediction as to what in his opinion your assets would have fetched in the open market at the valuation date.

The Wealth-tax is founded on the theory that one of the main objects of taxation is not merely to bring more revenue to the State but to reduce the disparity between wealth and poverty. But expropriation by the State would achieve the same result and where you have a situation like the present one where the wealth-tax and the income-tax between themselves swallow up the entire income of an assessee and leave no part of the income to the assessee to be spent on himself, the law may be rightly described as a law virtually entailing expropriation under the guise of taxation.

There is another aspect of the matter also and that is the very large amount of interference by public officials with the private lives of individuals which the administration of the wealth-tax is bound to entail. As regards the imposition of wealth-tax on companies, it is very well-known that Prof. Kaldor who conceived the idea of a combined levy of wealth, income-tax and expenditure-tax, was himself against the levy of wealth-tax on companies. The wealth-tax on companies simultaneously with the wealth-tax on share-holders in respect of the value of their shares clearly amounts to double taxation. There is no rational answer to the plea that there should be no wealth-tax levied on companies. The only answer which was given in official quarters was that the tax on companies is at a very small rate, being only half per cent., and therefore there need be no grievance. So far as sheer logic goes, that answer is no more convincing than the defence of the young man who, charged with murdering both his parents, pleaded for mercy on the ground that he was an orphan. The irrational double taxation cannot possibly be justified on the ground that it is at a very low rate.

THE OMNISCIENT OFFICER

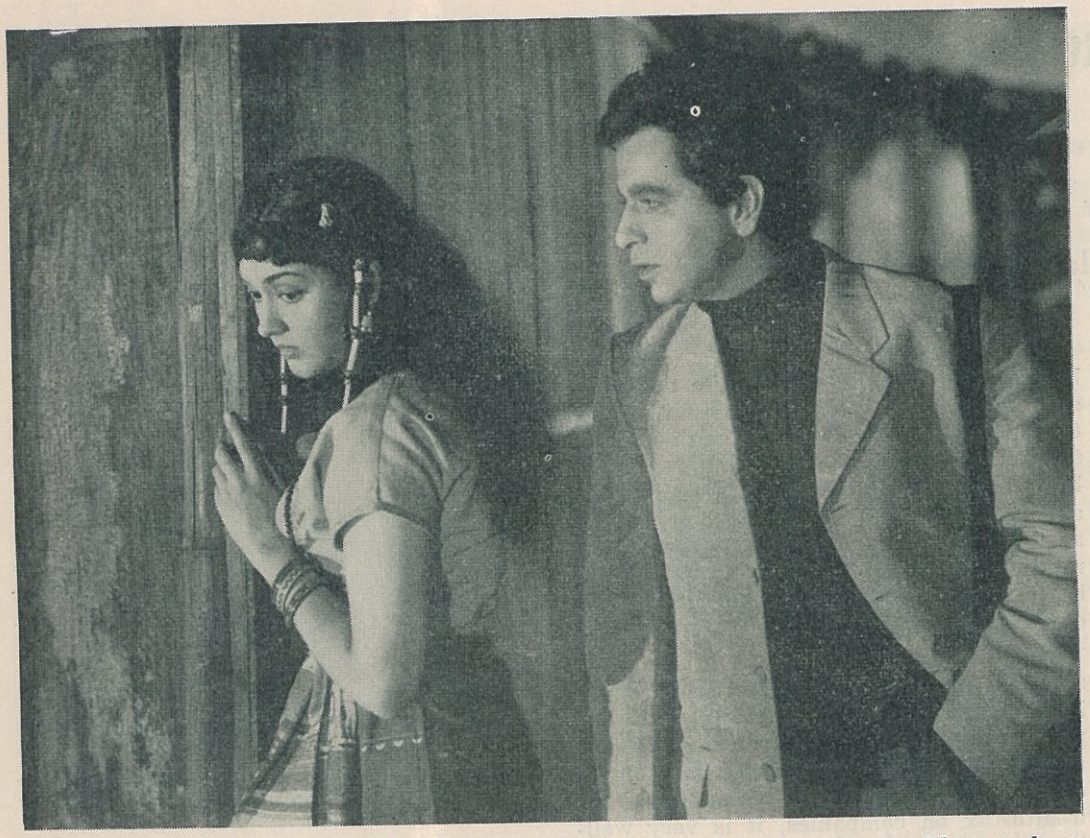
An assessee under the Wealth-tax Act must have a valuation made of all his assets every year. That process is fairly simple when one deals with shares and securities but it is a difficult process when you deal with other assets like houses and jewels. One wonders how many assessees would put themselves to the trouble and expense, as technically and strictly speaking they should, of trying to ascertain the correct market value of various assets other than shares and securities on each valuation date. Perhaps it was to relieve the assessee of that bother that the Legislature enacted that the value is to be what it is in the opinion of the Wealth-tax Officer, so that an assessee may make a fair estimate of what the normal mentality of tax officers in India is and on that basis try to ascertain what the officer is likely to take the assets to be worth. **In respect of all conceivable assets from bangles to buildings, the omniscient Wealth-tax Officer is supposed to know the true value and his opinion would decide how much wealth-tax you should pay.**

Mr. N. A. Palkhivala, Bar-at-Law, a member of the Law Commission and a leading Advocate of the Bombay High Court.

The expenditure-tax is a novel mode of taxation and it is one of the ironies of history that a nation which has so little to spend should be the first to levy a tax on expenditure. You first pay income-tax on the income you earn; when you spend it you again pay excise duty, sales tax, etc., which taxes are always passed on to the consumer; and thereafter at the end of the year of expenditure you again pay expenditure-tax on what you have spent. The epitaph which a famous English peer wrote for himself runs as under:—

> What I gave, I have.
> What I spent, I had.
> What I left, I lost.

The taxation structure in India is meant to hit you whichever of the three alternatives you choose to adopt. What you give by way of gift to others you might continue to have even after your death, but irrespective of the ethical value of large-heartedness, there will in all probability be, before the 31st March, 1958, a tax on gifts. What you spent, you had. But for the pleasure of having expended your own income, you are again subjected



Some young men think aggression to be the best instrument of conquest. They push a girl to a corner and then press their suit. Dilip Kumar is a pastmaster in this art and he has Vyjayantimala already cringing in "Madhumati", a romantic tale produced by Bimal Roy Productions

to tax. What you left, you lost. And you would lose it not merely to your heirs, but also a substantial slice to the State in the form of estate duty.

Two justifications have been pleaded in support of the expenditure-tax;—first, that it is necessary to make the scheme of taxation water-tight and, secondly, that it discourages ostensible expenditure. In reality, instead of making the scheme water-tight, the wealth-tax and the expenditure-tax may only provide two more incentives to suppression of income. Till 1957 if you suppressed your income you avoided one kind of tax. Now by suppressing it you can also avoid the expenditure-tax if you choose to save the income. So a tax levy which is intended to make the scheme of taxation water-tight may only make the nation more saturated and dripping with tax evasion. Just as recovery under the Estate Duty Act was not what it was expected to be, in all probability the expenditure-tax and the wealth-tax will not achieve the results they are expected to achieve either by way of recovery of tax or by way of prevention of tax evasion.

The old Roman poet said that gods sell everything at a fair price, but the new Five-Year Plans are sought to be effected at an excessive price. We have come perilously near the point of breaking the nation's economy in the process of bending it.

Some people might try to justify the imposition of the wealth-tax and the expenditure-tax on the ground that they are experiments which are necessary to the healthy growth of a "dynamic" nation like India. But it is dangerous to experiment in taxation laws. The wisest line of action in enacting the taxation laws of a country is to act on the old wise saying—when it is not necessary to change, it is necessary not to change.

The second justification for the expenditure-tax is the object set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, viz., to discourage ostensible expenditure. Ostensible expenditure is hardly indulged in on any wide scale in this country. Even without the expenditure-tax, in a few years' time ostensible expenditure would become as extinct in this country as the dodo or the mastodon. You do not need a novel tax, never tried in the history of mankind, in order to discourage what is not a wide-spread evil. Apart from the fact that reckless expenditure is hardly a public evil in India, there are economic consequences of restricting expenditure which merit serious consideration. In the United States, the most prosperous country in the world, more than 75% of all purchases are effected on credit; people buy goods which they have no means of paying for at the moment of purchase. That is understood to promote the economic prosperity of the nation. In India, we are now seeking to go in the contrary direction and discourage people from spending even within their means. The excise and customs duties are already a strong deterrent to purchase of those goods which can procure for us foreign exchange by being exported abroad. And you certainly do not need the expenditure-tax to achieve the same result.

REGIMENTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Certain allowances are given in respect of expenditure for certain purchases and, therefore, the Expenditure-tax Officer would be entitled to go into the question as to the purpose for which the expenditure was incurred. Thus, what you spend, what you save, and what you give are to become the subject of scrutiny by the State authorities. This regimentation, this control over the private affairs of individuals, is something against which all lovers of liberty will always rebel. The only difficulty is that this type of rebellion creates no effect in the governmental quarters because it does not result in the burning of tramcars or the stoning of automobiles. If you have a proposal to levy a negligible additional excise duty on tea or sugar, you have riots and civil commotion and the proposal to levy the tax is promptly dropped. If you have the levy of wealth-tax on companies, which is in fact more irrational than the additional excise duty on tea or sugar, the tax is still persisted in because there are no violent demonstrations of public antipathy. That is a very unfortunate aspect of the working of democracy in India. It would be a true democracy where the Executive is as responsive to intellectual arguments as to manifestations of lawlessness and violence.

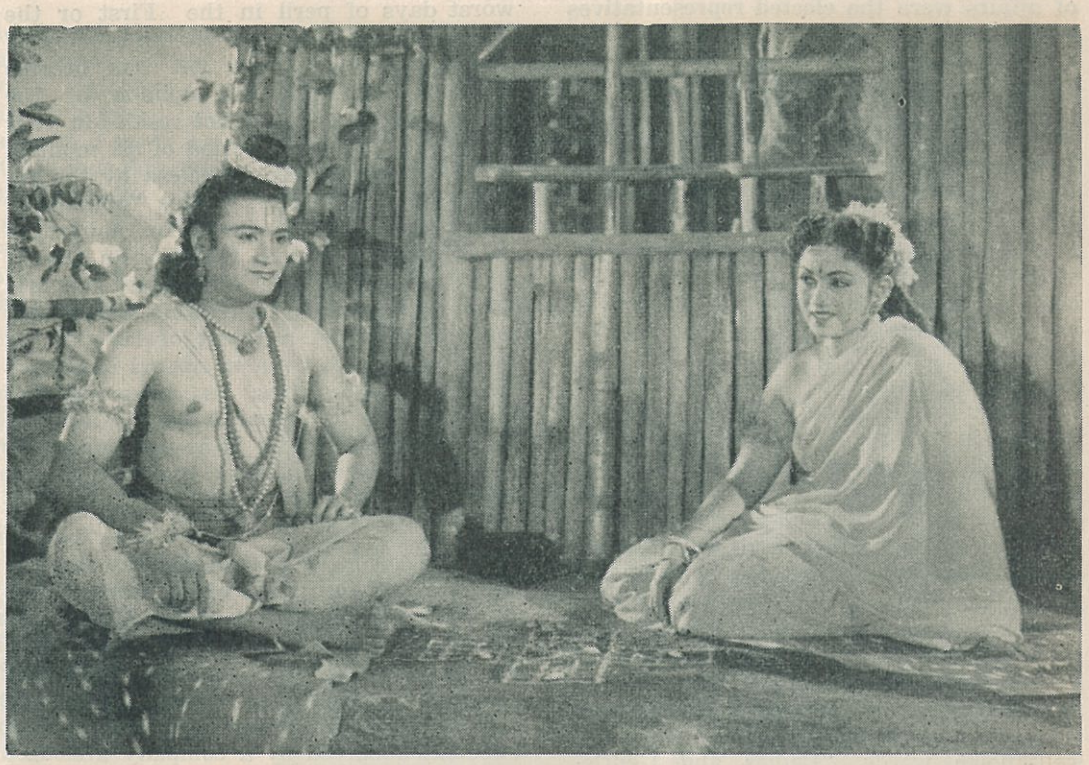
Even if the expenditure-tax fails, it is unlikely that it will be scrapped in the near future. Questions of pride and prestige will come in; and the second factor which goes to prolong the life of bad fiscal measures is the fact that what brings revenue to the State, in however small measure, is very seldom dropped. It is interesting to note that income-tax, than which few things are more certain in this world, was itself introduced as a very temporary measure for only one year. It was William Pitt who during the time of the Napoleonic war introduced income-tax, honestly believing that it was going to be levied for only one year. That is why the rates were prescribed by the annual Finance Act. The historic accident of the rates being prescribed by the annual Finance Act continues even today when the tax is as permanent as the Ellora caves.

The third tax, the capital gains tax, may not present much of a problem in many cases, because the Government has been thoughtful enough to give to the nation two other taxes, the wealth-tax and the expenditure-tax, which will militate against any appreciable capital appreciation. The main objection to the capital gains tax is concerned with the effect which it produces on the economy of the country. At a time when we need more capital for our industries the imposition of the capital gains tax cannot be regarded as very opportune. The capital gains tax is one more portent of the growing desire of the State to tax not wisely but too well.

CONSISTENCY—AN UNKNOWN VIRTUE

We may now pass on to the second aspect of the recent changes in the tax structure, making the existing laws more complicated. It would be futile to give a detailed list of the instancss of this particular aspect of legislative activity. One instance of the increasing complication of the tax laws is the provision for making current profits deposit with the Government as a condition precedent to the grant of depreciation allowance, balancing allowance and development rebate. The current profits deposit law is really foreign to the main purpose and spirit of taxation laws. It is not the function of a taxing statute to mop up liquid funds with a view to preventing them from getting invested elsewhere to the detriment of the nation. That function has to be discharged by laws other than taxation laws. The basic scheme underlying the current profits deposit law is that you must make the deposit with the Government before you can get the depreciation and other allowances and the Government would refund you the amount if the Government is satisfied that you need it for an approved purpose. Apart from two purposes which are specifically mentioned in the Rules as 'approved purposes', it is left to the Government to decide what are 'approved purposes' for a particular business. The Current Profits Deposit Rules constitute a bizarre piece of legislation. It has nothing to support it except the keen desire of the State to get the maximum amount of money belonging to citizens with the minimum delay.

By way of another instance of recent amendments making the existing laws more complicated, one might refer to the provisions of Section 23-A of the Indian Income-tax Act where recently the definition of companies in which the public are substantially interested was amended in a manner which leaves very large room for speculation as to what the true effect of the amendment is. In 1957 a further complication has been introduced by prescribing different statutory percentages for different Section 23-A companies, and even different statutory percentages for one and the same company in respect of its income derived from different sources. The last-mentioned provision will give rise to questions of apportionment of overhead expenses and other common expenditure which are likely in their application to be difficult of solution.



Shanta Kumar is obviously better equipped for nursing than Kumari Thangam. They are playing Ram and Sita and playing dice in "Lankeswaran" produced in Tamil by M. V. Raman. Let us hope they don't go cycling after the game.

Another instance of the increasing complications introduced in existing taxes is the provision prescribing different rates for companies declaring different percentages of dividend. There is no logical reason why the rate of tax should differ with variations in the rate of dividend. This is an instance of how the tax laws are getting complicated in a manner which is not reasonably related to the object of taxation and, secondly, how by means of taxation laws control is sought to be exercised on the discretion of even public companies to declare such dividend as they think right. Moreover, if a company in which the public are not substantially interested declares a lower dividend, it has to pay additional super-tax under Section 23-A of the Income-tax Act. If it declares a higher dividend, it has to pay additional super-tax under the relevant Finance Act. Thus, there is no consistent policy underlying the tax structure. And even with all these bothersome complications, it is not as if the State is really being fair and just. Let us take a simple example. Suppose a company declares 12% dividend, it pays additional super-tax; and if another company declared 6% dividend, it does not pay additional super-tax. But the company which declares 12% dividend may have declared no dividend during the last eleven years. So the average dividend which it has declared for twelve years works out to only 1%. And yet it pays higher super-tax than the other company which has declared 6% dividend. One can easily conceive of a large number of other factors which would go to make the declaration of a higher dividend fully justified in one case and not justified in another. The above illustration shows the inequity and injustice inherent in the present scheme of taxation where increasing complications based on diverse rules of thumb have not really brought about an equitable distribution of the tax burden.

CIVIL LIBERTIES BEING CRUSHED

The third aspect of the new tax laws is the growing interference with individual freedom.. The tendency of the State to encroach more and more on the freedom of the individual is as clearly reflected in recent tax laws as in other branches of the law.

Let us make no mistake: Civil liberty and individual freedom can die as surely, though not as swiftly, in a democracy as it can in a totalitarian State.. The nose-counting method—one man, one vote—will certainly survive. But it is only the husk of democracy. When civil liberties and individual freedom are excessively restricted, it is poor consolation to know that the persons responsible for such a state

of affairs were the elected representatives of the people.

There are three well-known types of freedom—Freedom of Thought, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Action. Thought is certainly free in this country; what we lack is thought, not the freedom of thought. Speech is also free in this country. The right to freedom of speech not only exists in India but is exercised in the amplest measure. "Speechifying" is one of the main hobbies of the Indian nation. There is an interesting story about the propensity of the Indian to speechify. The story goes that once an Italian, a Frenchman, an Englishman and an Indian were put under laughing gas. Now, laughing gas makes you act naturally and brings out your innate propensities which have been driven into the sub-conscious mind by inhibitions imposed by civilization. Under the influence of laughing gas, the Englishman started swearing, the Italian started singing, the Frenchman started making love to the nurse, and the Indian got on his feet and started an address commencing with the well-known words, "Ladies and Gentlemen." But the third freedom—Freedom of Action—is being more and more unduly restricted. It is no one's case that the old doctrine of laissez-faire can be revived in the present age. But excessive State interference can be even more deadly to the true spirit of democracy than laissez-faire.

If there is any one thing which is required to be carefully guarded in this country it is individual liberty and civil freedom. We have come to a stage where executive interference, all in the solemn name of Welfare State, has become so pronounced in every walk of life that only supreme exertions on the part of right-minded citizens will save civil liberty in this country. The right to have redress in a Court of law is being gradually restricted and the Executive is being vested with the powers taken away from the Court. Executive Officers, with minds not trained to weighing evidence judicially, or deciding impartially, or eliminating the irrelevant and confining impartially, or eliminating the irrelevant and confining attention to the relevant, are being vested with the widest powers.

Under our Constitution the balance of power between the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature has been sought to be maintained, but in actual practice the powers of the Executive, in the historic phrase, "have increased, are increasing and ought to be diminished." For instance, even in the enlightened Bombay State there is still in force the Bombay Land Requisition Act, which is a more drastic piece of legislation and gives wider powers to the Executive than any requisition law which England ever knew during the worst days of peril in the First or the Second World War. If "in the opinion of the Government" your flat has become vacant, or if "in the opinion of the Government" you have not resided in your flat for a continuous period of six months, you can be rendered homeless by the requisitioning authority. This "opinion of the Government" business, i.e., subjective determination of vital facts by an Executive Officer, whose decision is not supported by any grounds or reasons and cannot be questioned in a Court of law, or, in many cases, not even in appeal to higher executive authorities, is becoming the main feature of recent Indian legislation. This sinister tendency is as pronounced in taxation laws as in other branches of the law.

The Wealth-tax Act levies tax not on the value of the assets of an assessee but on what, in the opinion of the Wealth-tax Officer, is the value of the assets. After the amendment made last year, the subjective opinion of the Income-tax Officer is now made to decide whether certain expenses incurred by a company are "excessive" or unreasonable" having regard to the business needs of the company (Section 10 (4A) of the Income-tax Act). The decision on the question whether having regard to past losses or smallness of commercial profits the declaration of a larger dividend would be unreasonable is left to the subjective satisfaction of the Income-tax Officer (Section 23-A of the Income-tax Act). In practice the power of passing an order on the company under Section 23-A has been arbitrarily exercised against the company in a large number of cases where no mind, judiciously directed, could have possibly reached the conclusion arrived at by the Income-tax Officer.

The recent Current Profits Deposit Rules leave it to the Government to decide what purpose should be regarded as an 'approved purpose' for the purposes of a particular company. The deduction of depreciation allowance is universally recognised as essential for computing the true commercial profits and yet from this year this right is denied to the Indian tax-payer unless he deposits with the Government the money represented by the depreciation allowance or spends them on purposes approved by the Government. Surely, it is for the businessman to decide on what purpose he will spend the funds of his business. If he uses his funds in a manner detrimental to society, the arm of the law is long enough, or should be long enough, to prevent him from doing so. But the assumption that some businessmen may use their surplus funds in an anti-social manner is no justification for denying the right of depreciation allowance to all assessees unless they spend the funds in a manner approved by the Government.

THE "WELFARE" CLAP-TRAP

The clap-trap about the Welfare State and the Government making decisions in the national interest has been widely resorted to as a justification for all kinds of restrictions on civil liberties without the recognition of the import of such restrictions and their detrimental effect on the growth of a healthy democracy. Where shall we draw the line? If the Government can decide what purposes a company will spend its moneys on, why should it not also decide how much new additional machinery you must install every year, or what the individual should have for breakfast since bad diet may result in the rearing of an unhealthy generation?

Why should not the Government also decide what the individual will spend on, how much jewellery he should buy for his wife and how much he should invest in shares and how much in Government Securities? A system of law is growing up in this country with more and more powers being conferred on Government officers which can only be described in the words of Lord Hewart as the "New Despotism", or in the words of A.P. Herbert as "Despotic Executive". It is difficult to come across any new piece of legislation which does not leave decisions, of the most far-reaching effect from the point of view of the individual, to the Government, which often in practice means a not very highly-placed administrative officer.

The wide room for harassment and corruption which such a state of the law provides, needs no underlining. This regimentation of a nation's life by executive action is not peculiar to this country; it is growing all over the world. The tides of civil liberty are gradually receding over many democracies. But the mischief is imponderably greater in a country like India where the masses are illiterate, not conscious of their civil rights, and public opinion is not mobilised or educated.

Chapter 3 of the Indian Constitution, which deals with Fundamental Rights, will cease to have any practical signifiance if more laws of the type indicated above continue to be passed. The wise have said that the final guarantee of the fundamental rights, of a people is not a code or a constitution but the personality of the Judge; and, one may add, the personality of the executive officers in charge of administering the plethora of restrictive laws made in the name of the Welfare State. If after the present Five-Year Plan has been implemented, you find that the national income has been doubled and civil liberties and individual freedom have been halved, the people will have sold their priceless heritage for a mess of pottage.

ANNUAL AWARDS

New Delhi, April 17.

Producer-director V. Shantaram's "Do Ankhen Barah Hath" won the President's Gold Medal and a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 as the best picture of 1957. The Bengali film "Andhare Alo" was judged the second best film and was awarded an All-India Certificate of Merit and a cash prize of Rs. 12,500. Mehboob's "Mother India" was given a Certificate of Merit.

For the first time, the Prime Minister's Gold Medal for children's films, was bagged by Producer A. V. Meiyappan's highly entertaining film "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke". This is a solid achievement because there is a special government-aided Children's Film Society which is supposed to produce films for children. Its much-boosted films like "Char Dost" and "Jaldeep" failed to interest the children. It fell to an enterprising film producer's lot to produce the best children's film. "Hum Panchhi" also got a cash prize of Rs. 25,000. The second best children's film was in Bengali, "Janmatithi", which was awarded a Certificate of Merit and a cash prize of Rs. 12,500.

In the documentary field "Himalayan Tapestry" won the President's Gold Medal and a cash prize of Rs. 5,000.

These awards were made on the recommendations of the Central Committee for State Awards for Films, presided over by Mr. R. R. Diwakar.

The Central Committee probably wanted to make amends to V. Shantaram for having ignored his beautiful picture "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" in 1956 (that year the Award was given to the Bengali film "Pather Panchali"). But in trying to appease Shantaram, once again an error of judgement has been committed. In our opinion, "Mother India" deserved it more than "Do Ankhen".

JUVENILE CRIME

Hollywood, April 14.

A juvenile crime drama that shocked Hollywood for days was enacted in the house of film actress Lana Turner on the night of April 4.

Lana's 14-year-old daughter, Cheryl Crane, known to be a problem child, stabbed to death her mother's beau, Johnny Stompanato, in Lana's bedroom with a ten-inch butcher's knife from the kitchen. Stompanato was a figure familiar to the police being an underworld character and a friend of former gambler Mickey Cohen.

It is difficult for us to imagine how a teenager could handle a knife with such dexterity but in the U.S. these days, this art seems to have got into their blood.

It is said that Cheryl heard Johnny threatening Lana with: "I will get you, if it takes a day, a week or a year. I will cut you up and if I can't do it myself, I will find someone who can." This infuriated the little girl and she brought a knife from the kitchen and plunged it into Johnny's abdomen.

Cheryl was taken into custody and is now in a juvenile prison. Her father Stephen Crane is likely to re-marry Lana so that Cheryl gets a happy home life.

A coroner's jury on April 11 after 20 minutes of deliberation in which Cheryl's mother Lana Turner testified, held that the killing was "justifiable homicide."

Lana, who has been married four times already, had been dating Johnny Stompanato regularly till this gruesome incident happened under her very nose. Anyway Lana's other male admirers will now think twice before entering her bedroom. For isn't life dearer than sex?

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

New Delhi, April 5.

Though Communists are the first to clamp restrictions on individual liberty, they are the first to shout about it in a democratic Lok Sabha where the Opposition at least is given a chance to use its tongue freely.

On April 4, the Lok Sabha discussed the Bill of V. P. Nayar, a Communist member, seeking to repeal and amend certain provisions of the Dramatic Performances Act, 1876. Mr. Nayar said that the Act was promulgated by the British rulers to stifle and suppress the staging of dramas depicting social evils and other aspects of people's lives. There was no sense in having the Act in free India.

Mr. Nayar said that the present Government often banned even plays based on novels of Munshi Premchand, Tagore and others. For instance, the police in Calcutta had asked for a script of Rabindranath Tagore's novel "Gora" before a play based on it could be staged. The Government was right in banning obscene plays but using the Act to suppress new progressive ideas was unjust.

The Communists like to utilize every medium for spreading their propaganda. Hence their anxiety to repeal the Dramatic Performances Act.

If one has a sweetheart and he meets her in this precarious pose, how is he to respond? This is the problem that is facing our young men today. For, wherever they go they find young girls standing on one leg throwing the rest of them in the face of the visitor. As long as dancing was a monopoly of the professional girls, life was quite simple. But now every second girl in our colleges starts lifting her leg to the beat of some dancing rhythm and calls it our ancient culture. Young men want to know how homes can be run with such dancing sirens? Padmini, however, solves this problem in "Raj Tilak", the spectacular entertainment produced and directed by S. S. Vasan for Gemini Studios.

SPECTACULAR EXIT

Hollywood, March 31.

One of Hollywood's leading showmen, Mike Todd, died in an air crash on March 22 along with three others—pilot William Verner, copilot Tom Barclay and scriptwriter Art Cohn.

It was Todd's private plane called 'Lucky Liz', named after his 26-year-old charming actress-wife Elizabeth Taylor, that got caught in a snowstorm. 'Lucky Liz' thus proved to be most unlucky for poor Elizabeth.

"I have done it", says Nargis. But who asked her to wait so long? No one stops women from doing what they want if they don't stop themselves with the traffic light of doubt lighting up in their own mind. Women are strange creatures. They stop themselves for years and then turn round and blame others. Nargis seems to be happy at her decision in "Lajwanti", a sensational social tale produced by De Lux Films.

Mike Todd had a rather adventurous career being fond of gambling and speculation. He made and lost many fortunes in real estate ventures, Broadway stageplays and finally hit the jackpot with his spectacular hit "Around The World in Eighty Days" which has already grossed 33 million dollars.

Married to Elizabeth Taylor a couple of years ago, 52-year-old Mike doted on his young wife and little baby daughter. After his marriage he changed his will making Elizabeth his sole heir to his wealth. But Mike's three brothers and son from a former wife are expected to contest the will.

The showman is no more but the exit was as unexpected as the life that Mike led.

PLAYING THE MOTHER

Bombay, March 27.

Film actress Asha Mathur presented hubby Mohan Segal a bonny daughter on Wednesday, March 26, at a Bombay maternity home.

This was the best present Segal got in recent times. Asha has already shown that she has the makings of a good wife. Now she must learn to play the mother's role as well.

KEEPING MONARCHY ALIVE

Monaco, March 30.

Princess Grace—the former Hollywood actress Grace Kelly—became mother of a son, an heir to the Monaco throne. Her first child is a daughter called Princess Caroline born in 1957.

The little child's arrival was announced with the booming of a big cannon and pealing of church bells for a male heir to the throne is an occasion for wild rejoicing. The boy has a formidable name in keeping with royal traditions—Albert Alexandre Louis Pierre. When he becomes the Prince, he will be known as Albert II.

Prince Rainier III, Grace's husband, has every reason to be happy with a male heir to inherit his princedom. Let us hope Grace doesn't rush with a third child too soon. The talented girl seems to have been turned into a child-producing gadget by the rich Prince.

FOR BABAS AND BABIES

Trivandrum, March 30.

Whether we mean it or not, we show a lot of concern for our children these days by wanting to produce special films for them. We have now quite a few State Children's Films Committees, though the work they actually do is a secret.

The Kerala State Committee for children's films was inaugurated by Mr. E. M. S. Namboodripad, Chief Minister of Kerala at Trivandrum.

Indoctrination of children by Communists is one of their cardinal principles. Let us hope this Committee steers clear of such propaganda.

FASCINATION FOR FORTIES

Paris, March 31.

Popular 22-year-old French novelist, Francoise Sagan, married 42-year-old publisher Guy Schoeller. Though 20 years older than Francoise, the marriage is likely to be a happy one, for Francoise had often said that young girls should marry men in their forties. And Guy is still on the right side of forty.

Francoise shot into fame with her very first novel "Bonjour Triestesse" which has now been picturized by Hollywood. Her second book "A Certain Smile" was, however, not such a sensation. And now a third one "Those Without Shadows" has been dedicated to her loving husband Guy.

This is Francoise's first marriage and Guy's second. Guy is not likely to run short of publishing material with a novelist for a wife.

"IRON" SENSE OF HUMOUR

Rangoon, March 30.

The American film "The Iron Petticoat" starring Bob Hope and Katherine Hepburn was banned in Burma by the Burmese Government on the protests made by the Russian embassy that the film intended to "cast a slur on Soviet womanhood."

The Burmese Board of Film Censors had rejected the Soviet request earlier saying that the film was "harmless and not likely to be taken seriously." What hurt the Soviets in this picture is the character of the woman officer in the Soviet Air Force played by Katherine Hepburn. She is shown as "a woman of loose character."

That is too bad. How can there be a loose character in an 'iron' petticoat?

BESTS OF THE YEAR

Hollywood, March 28.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voted "The Bridge On The River Kwai" directed by David Lean as the best film of 1957.

The 'Oscar' for the best acting of the year went to British actor Alec Guinness for his fine performance in "The Bridge On The River Kwai." Rising starlet Joanne Woodward snatched the 'Oscar' for the best actress of the year from the other veteran actresses for her scintillating portrayal in "Three Faces Of Eve."

The Italian film "The Nights of Cabiria" was selected as the best foreign film and "Albert Schweitzer" the best documentary. The Oscar for the best film song of the year went to "All The Way" from the film "The Joker Is Wild."

The Oscars were distributed at a colourful function held in Pantages Theatre, Los Angeles. Though "The Bridge On The River Kwai" is a dry, slow-moving picture for the masses, the critics have liked it. And that is what probably makes it great.

DANCE SEMINAR

New Delhi, April 8.

The dance seminar organized by the Sangeet Natak Akadami in New Delhi recently adopted

a number of resolutions aimed at the development of the art of dancing in India.

One resolution said that the Akadami should institute national awards for deserving candidates, teachers and scholars in the different schools of dance. Another said that eminent Kathak exponents should popularize their art in South India while Bharat Natyam experts should take part in dance festivals of North India. Special scholarships by the Akadami for students of Indian dance of younger age groups for training in dancing as well as teaching have been recommended. A study tour of South-East Asia has been also recommended to explore the dance material in this region.

The recommendations of such seminars are always impressive. Even our film seminar organized by the Akadami three years ago had made many high-sounding recommendations. Nothing serious, however, ever comes out of them unless this one proves to be the exception.

THE INDIGENOUS STUFF

Stockholm, Marcn, 31.

Charming actress Ingrid Bergman, 41, seems to have got over Rossellini at last with their annulment suit pending in an Italian court.

Ingrid is not a woman to be beaten easily. She has now begun a new romance with 45-year-old Swedish producer-publisher Lars Schmidt. To test the warmth of their love the two spent some quiet days recently on a pretty Swedish island.

Ingrid said: "I love this little island." Some years ago when Rossellini had charmed Ingrid, the location was the island of Stromboli. Local columnists therefore called this Swedish island a "new Stromboli". Evidently Ingrid likes to meet her men on quiet islands.

Though Ingrid's marriage with Lars Schmidt is a foregone conclusion, it is likely to take some time. Anyway Ingrid's three little children can look forward to a new Swedish 'Papa' soon. This time Ingrid has chosen the indigenous stuff, having tried two foreign brands already.

CHILDREN STILL NEGLECTED

Bombay, April 3.

The following dramas in Marathi and Gujarati won the prizes instituted by the Government of Bombay during the period April 1, 1956 to March 31, 1957.

The first prize (Marathi dramas for adults) of Rs. 2,500|- is shared equally by "Tuze Ahe Tujapashi" written by P. L. Deshpande and "Manus Nawache Bet" written by Vijay Tendulkar; the second prize of Rs. 1,500|- for "Badha" by Mrs. Sarita Padaki; the first prize (Gujarati dramas for adults) of Rs. 2,500|- was given for "Angar Bhasma" and "Sandhya Dipika" to Shivkumar Joshi, the author of both the plays.

In the category of Marathi dramas for children, the first and second prizes were not awarded. The third prize of Rs. 250|- was shared equally by "Kaka Mala Vachava" and "Ek Aatppat Nagar Hote". In the Gujarati section, no prizes were awarded.

Plays for children still seem to be in their infancy. Probing the child mind is a difficult task for adults.

FAST DATING

Hollywood, April 2.

A girl much sought after by producers and eligible bachelors is actress Kim Novak.

Kim has so many around her that she just doesn't know which is the right one for her. Her Italian suitor, Mario Bandini, is coming to Hollywood soon. Then she has Mac Krim and Dr. Ernest Wynder. And last but not the least, Prince Aly Khan. Kim dated Aly on two successive nights and came to the sets of "Vertigo" a worn-out tired girl.

That is rather risky for Kim is at the height of her popularity. She must not allow romance to spoil her promising career.

SOLID OBSTACLES

Hollywood, April 5.

The Esther Williams-Jeff Chandler romance is not having a smooth sailing, not because they love each other less but because of certain legal aspects.

Jeff's wife, Marjorie, has asked for half the community property—$5,000 monthly for herself and $1,500 for their two children. Jeff finds this a rather tough proposition.

Moreover Jeff and Esther have both their film commitments. Who knows by the time they finish their pictures, the affair might fizzle out!

A GOOD INCENTIVE

Munich, March 30.

While we keep on enhancing entertainment tax without rhyme or reason, Bavaria's provincial Parliament decided to subject "bad" films to more entertainment tax and vice versa.

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Shah Bavishi & Co., 129, Radha Bazar St., Calcutta. Delhi Medical Stores, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. J. Balabhai & Co., 260, Esplanade, Madras.
S. P. Mehta, 623, North Bridge Road, Singapore - 7
S. P. Mehta, 11, Malay Street, K. Lumpur, (Malaya).

A blind man prays for one eye but God often becomes generous and blesses him with two. Film producers follow the divine lead and also give us two charmers when we expect only one. Cuckoo and Helen set the nerves vibrating in "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi", an exciting tale of love produced by K. S. Films.

The 11 West German States have set up an office to decide which films are "of cultural value" to get this preferential treatment.

During the debate, Herr Franz, one of the deputies said that in 400 films shown in Munich in a year, he had counted 624 cases of fraud, 405 of adultery, 310 murders, 104 robberies, 54 cases of blackmail and 34 of arson.

There is some sense in giving preferential tax treatment. Those producers who are anxious to get their pictures free from entertainment tax can set about making pictures of cultural value instead of pictures with sex, crime and sadism.

THE INEVITABLE DIVORCE

Hollywood, April 4.

Separation is usually the death-knell of marriage. Invariably divorce follows in its wake. And that is what has happened to Phyllis, wife of actor Rock Hudson.

Phyllis has filed divorce proceedings against Rock. Rock will soon be a free man to begin the wooing game all over again.

THE OLD 'SHOE'?

New York, March 31.

Zsa Zsa Gabor, the Hungarian-born actress, has again started taking interest in old things. Having met quite a few new men she seems to have now come to believe that 'old is gold'.

Her ex-husband, George Sanders, has been dating her and Zsa Zsa "confided" to some columnist that "Darlink, you know George is still madly in love with me... He is staying at this hotel, too. He always likes to live in my 'home'—when I'm there!"

Anyway an old shoe pinches less than a new one. Zsa Zsa knows this too well!

HELP YOURSELF

Madras, March 25.

Mr. V. V. Giri, the Uttar Pradesh Governor, inaugurated the fourth session of the All-India Cine Technicians' Association at Madras on March 23.

Mr. Giri uttered the usual platitudes and advised the cine technicians not to rub the employers on the wrong side. He commended to them the method of mutual and direct employer-employee negotiations as the best solution for any dispute relating to their economic betterment.

The Cine Technicians passed several resolutions and expressed grave concern over the "fast deteriorating conditions of employment in the film industry" and said that the Government should intervene and set things right.

But the Government has rarely solved the problems of the film industry. It usually multiplies them or worsens them.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

New York, March 31.

Marilyn Monroe, Hollywood's sexiest actress, is quite a different woman since her marriage to playwright Arthur Miller.

A star of her calibre would refuse to do a supporting role but that is exactly what Marilyn intends to do in her husband's Pulitzer Prize stage play which will go on Broadway soon. The play, said Marilyn, deals with "the tragedy and laughter of my generation." And though it is a supporting role, Marilyn is "first of all interested in good parts."

Marilyn is taking special lessons in acting. A painstaking artiste, we must say! Marilyn probably wants to imbibe her hubby's intelligence as quickly as possible.

POPULARITY OF RADIO

New Delhi, April 9.

Though everyone is unanimous in the opinion about the poor quality of programmes dished out by Balu Keskar's A.I.R., people still love to use the radio as a medium of entertainment. If they own a radio, they can still tune in to Radio Ceylon, Radio Goa and other countries when the A.I.R. fails to inspire them.

This accounts for the progressive rise in the number of radio licences from 2,75,000 in 1947 to 7,58,000. Dr. Keskar gave these figures in the Lok Sabha, stopping at 7,58,000, to prove that there was an increase of a lakh or more, sometimes one and a half lakhs, in the number of licences issued every year.

The number of radio licences of all types in the country on December 31, 1957, was 1,347,216.

But surely Balu can't take the credit for this increase. The pat on the back has to come from the masses and we know what they would like to do to bald Balu!

BEDROOM KNOWLEDGE

London, March 31.

Eva Bartok's constant companion these days, the Marquis of Milford Haven, has applied in London for recognition of a Mexican divorce obtained by Mrs. Romaine Simpson. If this is not possible, then he wants a British divorce.

The Marquis has evidently made up his mind about Eva. The Hungarian-born actress seen last in "Ten Thousand Bedrooms" seems to have a thorough bedroom knowledge, if nothing else. Isn't that what the Marquis wants?

OVERDOSE OF MEDICINE

New York, March 30.

Well-known stage, screen and television actress, June Lockhart, 32, divorced Dr. John F. Maloney, her 45-year-old hubby.

June, being an actress, probably got tired of a physician. An actress usually likes something exciting and the average physician is far from it. Wonder if Dr. Maloney gave June too much medicine?

NOT SO ROSY

Hollywood, April 7.

A report published by the Hollywood Technicians and Workers' Union recently painted a rather grim picture of the American film industry.

The theme of the report was that the American film industry cannot survive unless the Government grants subsidies, reduces taxes and provides other forms of federal aid.

Though the population of U.S. rose from 141 million to 167 million during a period of ten years—from 1946 to 1956—the number of cinemagoers over the same period decreased from 90,000,000 to 46,500,000. As regards actors, in 1946 there were 742 actors under contract, in 1956 there were only 229. Similarly the number of technicians and workers dropped from 24,000 to 13,000.

The technicians and the workers of the American film industry may not be doing well, but the top few amongst stars, producers and directors still demand high salaries and get them! They are the lucky ones.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

New Delhi, March 31.

A storm over the exhibition in India of "Bhowani Junction" produced by M.G.M. was again in evidence in the Lok Sabha when two members raised their voice against it. One said that he had seen the film and thought that it contained sequences derogatory to the Communist Party of India and the Congress Party.

Dr. Keskar admitted that protests had been received about the exhibition of this film. If members gave in writing their objections, he was prepared to go into them.

"Bhowani Junction" is an anti-Indian film and should have been banned long ago. Let us hope Dr. Keskar bans it at least now.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY DUEL

Paris, March 30.

In ancient times duels were a common feature and they were usually staged when chivalry, bravery and honour were at stake. Later on the purpose of duels degenerated into barbaric cruelty and were naturally banned.

And yet on March 30, 1958, at Blaru, near Paris, Chilean-born ballet director, the Marquis de Cuevas, 65, fought a duel with Russian-born choreographer, Serge Lifar, 53.

The reason for the duel was that the Marquis' Ballet Company put on one of Lifar's ballets, "Noir et Blanc" (Black and White) without asking permission from the Paris Opera. Lifar had challenged the Marquis to a duel and as agreed, the duel ended with the drawing of first blood.

Lifar got a small cut on the arm and that ended the duel. Luckily it was not a serious wound. The cause, however, doesn't appear to be worthy of a duel.

HOPEFUL PROSPECTS

New York, April 11.

Though the Americans have a marked preference for their own product, British pictures did pretty well in the U.S. last year.

The British films, without including the ones exhibited by the Rank group, earned $2,250,000, more than twice the the amount earned by France, Britain's foreign competitor. Foreign film earnings in U.S. totalled $5,700,000.

The Rank Organization refused to disclose its earnings to the representatives of the American film industry.

Anyway this is a nappy trend. For a long time Americans wouldn't allow foreign pictures to be exhibited in the U.S. But the American taste is probably changing for the better. Hollywood producers, however, have been quick in picking up talented British stars, some of whom (like Jean Simmons and Stewart Granger) have now made Hollywood their permanent home.

ACT OF FURY?

Ahmedabad, March 17.

Thakore Manaji, an actor who took part in a drama, "Vir Arjuna," in the village of Telav in Ahmedabad district, suddenly opened a round of fire in the air while performing on the stage. The bullet killed a teen-aged girl on the spot and seriously injured a woman, who is reported to be the wife of the actor.

The police have arrested the actor. What made Manaji lose his head to indulge in this shooting is not known. The result, however, was tragic.

With a little experience women often develop cunning and tantalizing eyes—eyes that invite trouble and ruin the peaceful nights of our modern sissy boys. This is the type of expression that brings the usual dream disasters to our dreamy young men. Mala Sinha is fast becoming a dangerous temptress and gives an excellent account of herself in "Phir Subha Hogi", a thrilling tale of love produced by Parijat Pictures.

ANOTHER INSOLVENT

Bombay, April 11.

Shri Jwala Prasad Tiwari, managing director of the M. & T. Films Ltd. (now in liquidation) was adjudicated insolvent by Shri Justice Shelat at the Bombay High Court, the petitioning creditors being Messrs. Bhimraj Harlalka, plaintiffs in a summary suit filed against the film company and Tiwari.

MIXING ART AND POLITICS

Ahwa, April 4.

The Collector of Dangs issued orders on April 4, 1958, under Section 144 Cr. P. C. prohibiting the staging of "tamashas" in the Dangs area.

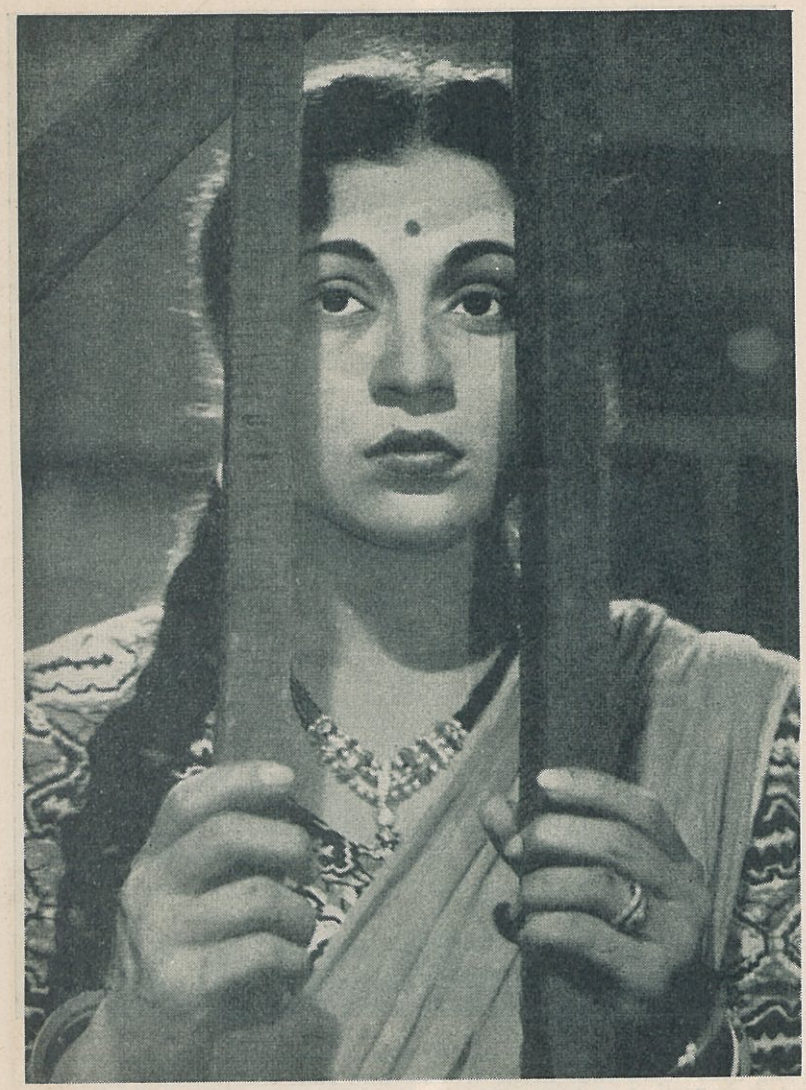
Though "tamashas" are meant for entertainment, they are reported to have been utilized by different groups to aid their election campaign of the district board in the Dangs area. The question whether the Dangs district should be joined to Gujerat or Maharashtra was the main issue in the elections.

Politics in 'tamasha' entertainment robs the 'tamasha' of its inherent artistic value. Art and politics don't mix well.

HELPING THE NEEDY

Bombay, April 1.

The Government of Bombay sanctioned a sum of Rs. 22,500 to be distributed amongst 44 actors, dramatists, and litterateurs during the current financial year. These people, who



She is not in a jail. She is in a home but her impatience brings her to the window and makes the home a jail. When a woman begins to watch the way with such big eyes, the man soon meets with an accident. Many women still do not know that men like to make their arrival a surprise. By standing in the window they sabotage this element of surprise in married life. Nirupa Roy seems rather anxious in "Chal Baaz", a romantic story produced by Neolite Films.

are mostly in straitened circumstances, need this oxygen to keep them living.

Amongst the stage artistes, the well-known actor Balgandharva, got a sum of Rs. 3,000; among writers, Narayan Hari Apte a sum of Rs. 2,000 and from the musicians, Mr. Vishwanath Buwa Jadhav Rs. 1,000|- to mention only a few.

Twenty-two thousand and odd rupees is a trifling amount but the Government's gesture of looking after artists, musicians, writers, etc., must be appreciated.

RE-ELECTED

Bombay, April 2.

The Film Federation of India held its annual general meeting in Bombay, on Monday, March 31, 1958, and re-elected Mr. M. B. Bilimoria as its president for the next year.

Other office-bearers are:— Mr. Ajit Bose (Bengal Motion Picture Association) and Mr. J. B. H. Wadia (Film Producers' Guild) vice-presidents. New members were elected for the executive committee of the F.F.I. from Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Vijayawada, Jullundur and Bangalore.

The entertainment tax situation in Uttar Pradesh was discussed. So far the efforts of the Film Federation of India to lessen the entertainment tax in U.P. have failed miserably.

LILLIAN MARRIED

Bombay, March 30.

Jewish actress Lillian, a newcomer to the Hindi screen, and Isaac Mansoor were married in the Jewish Synagogue in Bombay on March 27.

Lillian made her debut in Bimal Roy's "Apradhi Kaun"? a crime thriller directed by Asit Sen. And since her husband has given Lillian permission to work in films, she has decided to continue her film career.

Lillian's husband has now gone to England for higher studies. Marriage is in itself a good career. Why does Lillian want to spoil it by dabbling in films? The energy she would waste in the studios could be utilized to build a happy home. For Jewish women are known to make good housewives.

SWELLING GOVERNMENT COFFERS

Bombay, March 30.

Once again film folks rose to the occasion to lend a helping hand to Government's National Savings Scheme by participating in a cultural programme at the Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium on the night of March 28.

Stars helped to swell the sale of National Savings Certificates which reached the figure of 2 crores.

While Dev Anand spoke extempore, Dilip Kumar made a speech from a prepared text. Even film actress Jabeen ventured to make her maiden speech and thanked the men of the Indian Air Force for investing in the Savings Certificates. And she also declared, "I for one, have resolved to purchase National Savings Certificates regularly, every month."

Film stars should really invest in National Savings Certificates because they earn big money and they are the ones who can afford to save—not the poor man in the street who lives from hand to mouth and keeps wondering where his next meal will come from.

MUSICIAN IN LEGISLATURE

Madras, April 4.

K. B. Sundarambal, the famous songstress of the south, was nominated to be a member of the Madras Legislative Council by the Governor of Madras.

Filmgoers will remember with pride the glorious songs which Sundarambal rendered for "Avvaiyar", a Gemini picture produced and directed by S. S. Vasan. This was Sundarambal's last picture.

Sundarambal's contribution is not only in the field of art and music. She also played an important part in the freedom struggle, courting prison in the pre-independence days.

PREPARING THE GROUND

Hollywood, April 4.

When a play becomes a hit on Broadway, a film producer is always round the corner to buy its rights. But this time even before the play has clicked, its rights have been bought by Paramount for $350,000.

The play, which will come on Broadway soon, is called "The Pleasure Of His Company" written by Samuel Taylor and Cornelia Otis Skinner. It will be produced in Hollywood by William Perlberg and directed by George Seaton.

In India our producers don't bother about new themes. One outdated formula lasts for a hundred pictures.

PAK CINEMATOGRAPH BILL

Lahore, March 31.

The West Pakistan Legislative Assembly passed the Cinematograph (West Pakistan Amendment) Bill 1958 on March 29.

Blackmarketing of cinema tickets was being done openly all these months by most of the theatres in Pakistan. The Bill removes this evil and legalizes the measures enacted earlier through an ordinance promulgated by the Governor. The Bill also empowers the Board of Film Censors to restrict the exhibition of certain films to adults only.

AMICABLE SETTLEMENT

Bombay, April 11.

The Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association had recently issued a circular that members of the Cine Music Directors' Association should not be engaged by the I.M.P.P.A. members because of their high rates.

Now the two Associations have come to terms and a new six-point compromise formula has been arrived at.

The first recording was done after a deadlock that lasted for three weeks. Evidently a lot of steam was blown for nothing by both sides.

A NEW-BORN BABY

Bombay, March 30.

Character artistes got together at the Shree Sound Studios on March 19 to form an association of their own to safeguard their interests in the film industry.

The following office-bearers were elected to the Character Artistes' Association:— Durga Khote, president; Mubarak, vice-president; Manmohan Krishna —whose original brain-child the association was—general secretary; Sajjan, joint secretary; David, treasurer.

The committee members include: Leela Chitnis, Achala Sachdev, Bipin Gupta, Gajanan Jagirdar, K. N. Singh, Pran, Agha, Jeevan, Madanpuri, Dhumal and Radhakishen.

The constitution of the new Association was presented by Manmohan Krishna and approved by the 40 artistes present. One of the main complaints of the character artistes is that they are signed on small amounts and even this money has to be got by begging. "Sometimes we have to forego it completely", added Manmohan.

Let us wait and see what Durga Khote—the first lady of the screen—does for the Association as its president. At the moment the character artistes are all bubbling with enthusiasm over their newborn baby. But everything depends on whether their cry will be heard or ignored by the film producers.

STALE SECRET

Quebec, March 31.

The secret of secret marriages is usually out in a day or two in a world peopled by nosy neighbours, prying columnists and wagging tongues.

And yet no one knew that actor Franchot Tone, 53, had married Dolores Dorn-Heft, a one-time Broadway actress, on May 14, 1956, at Quebec, till the couple revealed their well-nursed secret.

But the secret lasted too long and has now become stale.

STAGE-MANAGED SHOW?

Los Angeles, March 31.

It is rather strange that a husband and wife married to each other for 18 years should feature as the plaintiff and the co-defendant in a court.

Whatever be the reason, Loretta Young's 55-year-old husband, Adman Tom Lewis, was the plaintiff in a Los Angeles court. He called for the dissolution of Lewislor Films Inc., producer of NBC-TV's Loretta Young Show and charged the company bosses with "dishonesty, mismanagement and unfairness". The co-defendant was Lewis' charming wife Loretta Young and the company's president.

Lewis, however, said that the case "had no personal implications". Perhaps, it is a stage-managed show. One can never tell.

DOUBLING GLAMOUR

London, March 31.

A pretty working girl of London, Ella Fudge, became a show-girl. Then came along Prince Charming, the Papal Prince Pier Borghese, who married her and made her Princess Wilhelmina Borghese.

Recently she visited her father in Chelsea and told news-reporters that she was planning to become an actress to kill her boredom. Said the Princess: 'I get bored just being a Princess with nothing to do all day except the garden.

But, mind you, I like being a Princess. It's convenient. One gets a better service in the hotels, for example."

As a princess Ella has already glamour. Acting will double her glamour.

FUTURE MONEY-SPINNER

Hollywood, April 4.

A girl who has no reason to work in films is Lili Gentle who recently married Richard Zanuck, son of the famous producer Darryl Zanuck. And yet Lili has a sentimental reason to do so. Her sister Janet had always longed to be an actress but polio snatched her away in the midst of her ambitions.

Seventeen-year-old Lili has already worked in three pictures, "The Girl Can't Help It", "Sing Boy Sing" and "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter"? and 20th Century Fox bosses think that the young girl has a promising future. To them she is a potential money-spinner.

THE ULTIMATE STEP

Hollywood, April 11.

Though by nature temperamental and highly-strung, film actress Judy Garland who separated from hubby Sid Luft recently, is not spending her hours brooding. She has filed a suit for divorce in the Santa Monica Superior Court alleging that Sid Luft had tried to strangle her.

In the meantime, the popular-singer actress will start on a personal tour of the U.S. and then fly to London. After London, Judy will return to Las Vegas to fulfil a singing engagement.

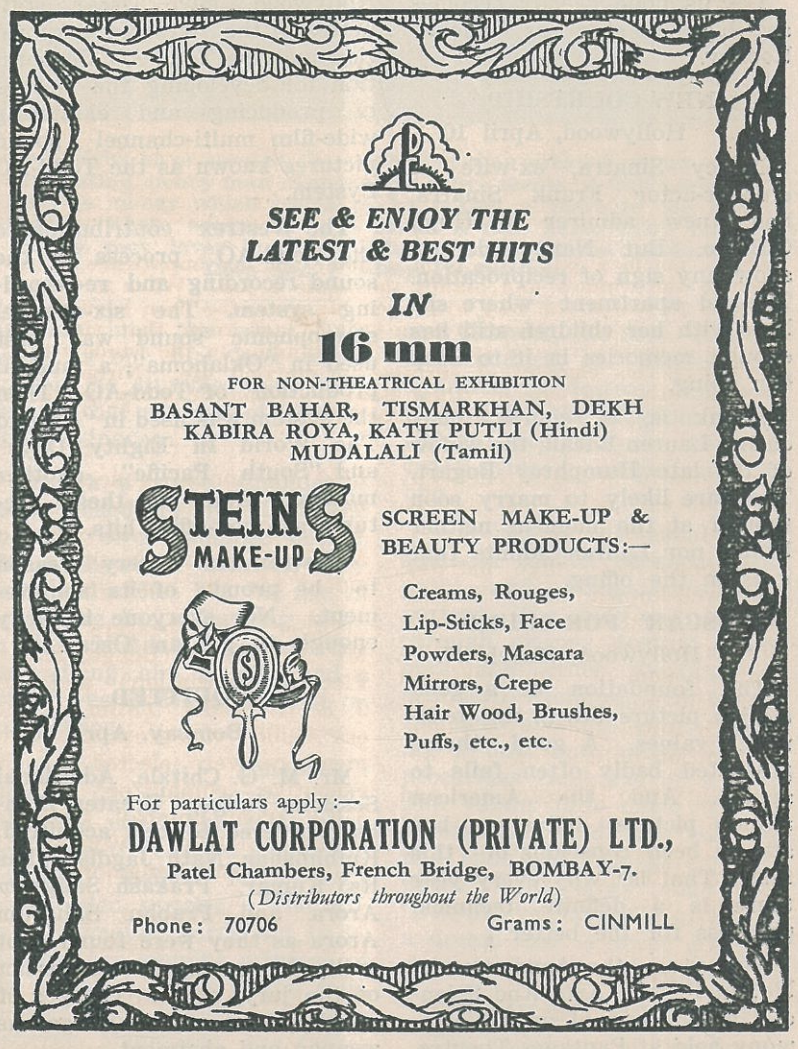
Last time at the 'Flamingo' in Las Vegas, Judy had walked out in a huff during one of her programmes. But she seems to be more composed now. Her decision to divorce has probably helped her.

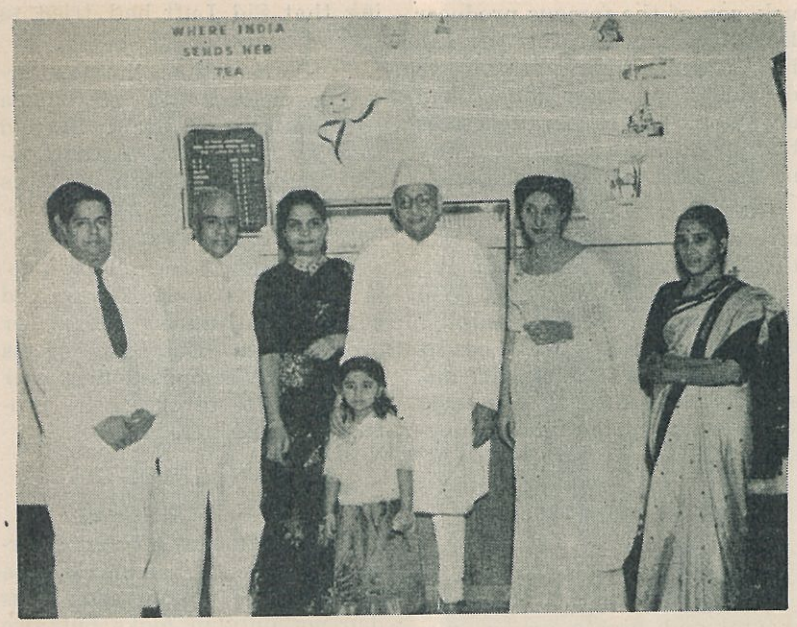
TAKING AFTER DAD

Hollywood, April 5.

Mickey Rooney's eight-year-old son Teddy, from Martha Vickers, has taken after his dad not only in looks but also in acting talent.

Teddy is to star in a television pilot film and he will play Burt Lancaster's son in "The Rabbit Trap" for the screen.





Sri Prakasa, our Governor, is learning how to make good tea at this age after having ruined his digestion all these years with thousands of cups of wrongly made tea. He recently visited the Tea Centre in Bombay and was taught how to do the trick of a good cup of tea. From left to right: Mr. V. S. Raghavan, the Manager of Lipton Ltd; Mr. K. Venkatachary of the Tea Centre, Miss Sista, Baby Ranjani, Mr. Sri Prakasa, the Governor, Mrs. Homi Talyarkhan and Mrs. Vasantha Raghavan.

Let us hope Teddy becomes as big a star as Mickey Rooney.

NEW COURTSHIP

Hollywood, April 10.

Nancy Sinatra, ex-wife of crooner-actor Frank Sinatra, has a new admirer in Hugh O'Brian. But Nancy doesn't show any sign of reciprocation. The old apartment where she lives with her children still has enough memories in it to keep her going.

Frank is, of course, busy dating Lauren Bacall, the widow of the late Humphrey Bogart. They are likely to marry soon though at the moment neither Frank nor Lauren admits that it is in the offing.

'OSCAR' FOR SOUND

Hollywood, March 27.

The foundation of a good motion picture lies in its technical values. A good theme presented badly often fails to appeal. And the American motion picture industry has always been conscious of this fact. That is why every year there is a definite technical progress for the better.

This year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts And Sciences, at the annual award ceremony held at Pantages Theatre, Hollywood, gave "Oscar" statuettes to the Westrex Corporation and the Todd-AO Corporation for developing the method of producing and exhibiting wide-film multi-channel sound pictures known as the Todd-AO System.

The Westrex contribution to the Todd-AO process is the sound recording and re-recording system. The six-channel stereophonic sound was first used in "Oklahoma", a musical production of Todd-AO. Then the system was used in "Around The World In Eighty Days" and "South Pacific", another musical. And all these pictures are box-office hits.

Westrex has every reason to be proud of its achievement. Not everyone is lucky enough to get an 'Oscar'.

ACQUITTED

Bombay, April 16.

Mr. M. G. Chitale, Additional Sessions Judge, Greater Bombay, ordered to be acquitted, Kulbhushan Nath Jagdish alias Raj Kumar, Prakash Saligram Arora and Prabhu Saligram Arora as they were found not guilty by an unanimous verdict of the jury, of the charges of murder, hurt with a dangerous weapon and abetment.

The prosecution case was that on the midnight of December 25, 1957, one Jagdish Tulsiram Parwani and his brother-in-law Otandas Wadhusing were going along fifth road, Khar, when the three accused sitting in two cars and a fourth person who has not been traced abused them and then assaulted them with fists from behind. Jagdish ran away and returned to the scene with his brother Ramchand when Raj Kumar is alleged to have assaulted Ramchand with a golf stick on the head from behind. Ramchand was later taken to the hospital on December 28 succumbed to his injuries without regaining consciousness.

Raj Kumar's defence was that he had gone to see the Arora brothers at the Arora Hospital building where they were staying but he had left them at 11.30 P.M. and returned to Juhu, his residence. Prakash Arora said that he and his wife heard some sounds at about 1.30 that night. When they came out of the compound, they saw some persons running away. Later a constable came to the Hospital to inquire whether Prakash had witnessed an assault alleged to have taken place on the road. Prakash told the constable that he was not a witness to this incident. Prabhu said that he was suffering from asthma and that on the night of the alleged assault, he had taken an injection and was sleeping.

The Judge accepted the jury's verdict and ordered the accused to be acquitted.

NARGIS FINED

Bombay, April 16.

Presidency Magistrate, Mr. M. Nemazee, Girgaum Court, found film actress Fatima Rashid Nargis guilty of the charge of riotous and disorderly behaviour under the Bombay Police Act and ordered her to pay a fine of Rs. 25.

On October 1, 1955, Nargis is reported to have parked her station wagon in the middle of the road near Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan while the chauffeur was sent to get pan. Nargis, it was alleged, refused to remove the vehicle when Sub Inspector Jadhav of Gamdevi police asked her to do so because it was obstructing the traffic. On the other hand, Nargis was alleged to have behaved rudely, abused Jadhav and asked the driver not to give his name and licence number to the officer. Nargis was charged with obstructing the officer in the discharge of his duties under Section 186 of the I.P.C. and also riotous and disorderly behaviour under Section 110 read with Section 117 of the Bombay Police Act.

Mr. Nemazee held that the charge of obstruction had not been satisfactorily proved and observed that it would be dangerous to accept the uncorroborated evidence of the officer on this point. Nargis was, however, found guilty of having used abusive language to the officer and of riotous and disorderly behaviour within the meaning of the Police Act.

This case had originally been withdrawn by the State Government in 1956 but was tried on an order of the High Court subsequently, by the Presidency Magistrate, Girgaum Court.

"MOTHER INDIA" THE WINNER

Bombay, April 20.

At a crowded function held by "Filmfare" in the Regal Theatre on April 19 and presided over by Chief Minister of Bombay, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, the Filmfare awards for the bests of the year in the film industry were distributed.

Producer-director Mehboob's classic saga of the soil, "Mother India", which has scored several silver jubilees all over the country, bagged five of the awards, namely for the best picture of the year, best direction, best photography by Faredoon Irani, best sound by Kaushik and best acting by Nargis.

Dilip Kumar won the award for best acting in "Naya Daur". Since the inception of the awards five years ago, Dilip has won the best actor award four times—his earlier award-winning pictures being "Daag", "Azaad" and "Devdas".

The variety show that was staged that night was rather disappointing but Sandhya Mukherjee, the talented songstress from Bengal, made up for this lapse. She held the audience spell-bound with her thrilling voice and emotional rendering.

OUR REVIEW

"Raj Tilak", A Fine Prescription For The Blues

Spectacular Picture Draws Huge Crowds

Producer Vasan of Madras is perhaps the greatest showman India has produced. He always gives the greatest show on earth with the least strain on the mind of the audience. Entertainment—fast and furious with eye-filling spectacle—is the forte of Producer Vasan. He evidently does not believe in bringing the grim problems of life to the screen. He knows the numerous tragedies of modern life. He knows he has no solutions for them. And he also knows that no one else has any practical solutions for them. He has realized that the human design for living has to be punctuated with tragedies. But why take the tragedies to the screen? Don't they do enough harm in life? He has therefore made the Gemini screen a medium of happy escape. Vasan, probably, feels that three hours of escape from the worries of life will give the mind the rest it badly needs and prepare it better to face the struggle of life. Producer Vasan is not wrong in thinking in this manner, for we did forget the phantom of Income Tax haunting us when we saw Padmini and Vyjayantimala competing in the best dance duet ever seen on the Indian screen and we almost took sides with Ganesh when he fought his final duel with Pran on the tower of a fort.

But the story of "Raj Tilak", though thrown against a Ruritanian background, is not without its symbolic theme—which is the suppression of tyranny and the restoration of rights to the just and virtuous. And this theme is not broadcast in hollow and high-sounding words of Pandit Nehru. It is portrayed in action and incidents, leaving the spectator to draw his own moral. With two beautiful girls and a hero who labours under the suspicion of having been handsome once, there is a thrilling romance woven into this exciting pattern of entertainment with a capital E.

A TALE FROM RURITANIA

The story opens on the sea and we see a merchant vessel belonging to a Muslim trader being tossed about in a dangerous sea. Chander, a young orphan picked up by the Muslim trader once upon a time, saves the ship by cutting off the sail. The owner of the ship gives him a 'bakshish' of Rs. 10,000/- with which Chander decides to get his young sister married.

On shore with his sister, Chander soon behaves like Sindbad, the Sailor, and goes hunting for a suitable bridegroom for his sister. The boy is so busy that he does not even take a meal at home. The unknown parentage of the brother and the sister creates the usual obstacles but Chander ultimately succeeds in finding a bridegroom. However, the Senapathi of the kingdom, who has an evil eye for young women, spots the girl and kidnaps her. The girl struggles and jumps out of the carriage and dies. Now Chander, as was expected, swears vengeance against Senapathi and showing us an open knife as an earnest of his intention enters the bedroom of the Senapathi. His attempt is foiled and Chander finds himself a prisoner in a fort surrounded by the sea.

In the prison, Chander stumbles over a crazy woman, who has also been a prisoner there for years. As film luck would have it the woman turns out to be his genuine mother. From her Chander learns that he is the son of Sardar Mangalsen, the ex-Prime Minister of the ex-Maharaja, who was treacherously killed by Senapathi. She also tells him that his father is living somewhere with the crown prince and the princess. Having given this information and loosened a few stones of the prison the woman dies to push the story forward.

Chander, as is expected, soon escapes from the prison after fighting with the guards and jumping into the sea. Once again as our film luck would have it, he stumbles over Mandakini, the princess of an unknown kingdom.

God might have created the metal but man created money. And by creating money man changed the entire theme of God's creation. Here is money which seems to be taking a mare to the mare. Shubha Khote seems to have found a race horse more reliable than a racy lover in "Ek Shola", a social theme produced by Deep and Pradeep Productions.

Though a slave, Chander is soon picked up by Mandakini for her own romantic design. He is showered with all comforts and riches but the fire of vengeance keeps burning within him. Mandakini realizes this and giving him a boat and a lot of wealth sends him out on his mission.

Landing on Senapathi's shores, Chander again meets with the usual film luck when he rushes to rescue a young and beautiful maiden from some hot-blooded gypsies. The woman ultimately turns out to be Padma, the genuine princess of the kingdom. This happy coincidence leads to a happy union between Mangalsen, the father and Chander, the son. Mangalsen conducts an underground agitation to destroy Senapathi and restore the kingdom to the rightful heir who is the little crown-prince brought up by him.

Now begins the usual hide-and-seek conflict between Senapathi and Mangalsen's supporters. The story soon travels through prisons, torture chambers and other locations of mediaeval excitement till we see the hero and the villain fighting a duel unto death on the precarious ramparts of a fort. The villain falls down with a spectacular thud into the sea and ends our transparent suspense. The story ends with "Satyameva Jayate"—giving us a dream that is never going to come true in the Congress Raj.

COMPETENT DIRECTION

The highlights of the picture

Right from the temple of Meenakshi in Madura comes this precarious pose under the excuse of a celestial art. If half the skill, which modern women reveal in balancing themselves thus, is used for balancing their lives, the world would be a happier place to live in. Padmini gives an excellent account of herself in "Raagini", a love tale produced by Ashok Pictures.

are its thundering production values. "Raj Tilak" is a rich, eye-filling picture from the beginning to the end, almost every frame containing art and beauty. The dance duet between Padmini and Vyjayantimala, which wisely leaves both triumphant, is a rare spectacle on the Indian screen. For this duet alone the picture is worth seeing several times. As the story is a fairy tale, the picture mainly depends on a well-knit screenplay and continuous action. No one seems to stand still in the picture including the director, who has done an excellent job. "Raj Tilak" is essentially a director's picture and one must admit that few directors can excel Vasan in this type of pictures which call for constant action and very close editing. Photography and recording are of the usual Gemini standard.

PADMINI Vs VYJAYANTIMALA

From the players Vyjayantimala walks away with the laurels in the sympathetic role of Mandakini. The girl has both grace and expression. Padmini gives her best performance so far, as Padma, the princess, but she looks dumb and stiff in places though she excels in the dance duet because of better tradition and technique. But a motion picture needs something more than dancing. In that something more Vyjayantimala beats her easily. Pran has an easy role to play as the villainous Senapathi. He seems to have been born for such roles and he lives through one more with his usual finesse. Jagirdar gives a good account of himself with a very sincere portrayal of the patriotic Prime Minister. Ganesh carries out the director's instructions faithfully as the hero of the play. One doesn't mind him when he is running about but when the camera settles on his face in a love scene one wonders what two pretty girls find in him. There is so little in the face and the eyes of the boy. Agha and Shammi do their roles well. Shammi almost gives a glimpse of a spiritual future when she puts the saffron robes. How deceptive appearances can be!

In fine, "Raj Tilak" is a furious entertainment which takes a man for a three hours' ride through a fairy land of adventure and excitement. The picture is an excellent prescription for the blues of modern life.

RAJ TILAK

Producers:	Gemini Studios
Language:	Hindustani
Screenplay:	K. J. Mahadevan
Dialogue:	Ramanand Sagar
Lyrics:	P. L. Santoshi
Music:	C. Ramchandra
Photography:	P. Ellappa
Recording:	C. E. Biggs
Cast:	Vyjayantimala, Padmini, Ganesh, Pran, Jagirdar, Agha, Lalita Pawar, Shammi, Durga Khote, etc.
Released At:	Roxy, Bombay
Date of Release:	11th April 1958

Produced & Directed By
S. S. VASAN

OUR REVIEW

"Chal Baaz", A Stupid & Incoherent Picture

A Celluloid Exercise Forty Years Too Late

Neo Lite Films' "Chal Baaz" is a picture which could have won praise a couple of decades ago when the mere fact that human images moved and talked on the screen could provoke wonder and excitement in the spectator. Today one expects something more from a motion picture, but "Chal Baaz" provides no other justification for its claim to being called a motion picture than that it shows human figures moving and talking. In short, "Chal Baaz" deserves not to be seen but simply to be remembered as a picture which was produced forty years too late to win glory for its makers.

AN ANCIENT TALE

This marvellously stupid and incoherent picture, unspoiled even in a single spot in its entire length with a touch of intelligence or imagination, has something to do with the princess of a state who is preparing to formally place her ponderous bottom on the throne rendered vacant by the death of her father. To surround the occasion of the royal bottom descending into the royal chair with lavish festivities the princess needs more money than her treasury contains at the moment. Therefore, on the advice of Shamsher, one of her counsellors, she orders her soldiers to tap the subjects for the purpose.

When the soldiers start doing that, the subjects call it plunder and tyranny, and one suicide-bent lad rushes into the palace to throw a word or two of protest at the princess and to receive her sword into his chest. The dead man manages to reach home where his sister, Roopa also makes an angry entry into the palace and for her trouble is locked up in the jail. At this stage, Randhir, the commander-in-chief of the State and the heart-throb of the princess, decides to express his approval of Roopa's cause and disapproval of the princess's tyrannical rule.

The next morning when it is discovered that Roopa has managed to effect her escape, Randhir, though innocent, is suspected and accused of procuring it. Randhir then parts with his job but manages to retain his life and freedom. Soon afterwards, Roopa becomes the full-fledged leader of a regular band of rebels with her headquarters located in a mountain fastness and her existence already a source of terror to the state's forces who call her "Chal Baaz". Now, Randhir also joins Roopa's band but just because she does her rebellion business dressed in a

male attire, Randhir, in spite of two good eyes, fails to notice two glaring facts and continues to mistake his partner in rebellion to be a male.

Now Roopa, Randhir, the princess and others keep swinging swords and rushing here and there without conveying any thrill with the former activity or sense with the latter, till the spectator, in sheer boredom, feels ready and willing to applaud any party as victorious, provided the whole stupid business would be finished with soon. In the end, the rebels are victorious, the princess is repentant, Roopa and Randhir are in love with each other, the villainous Shamsher is inside the stomach of some sleepy-looking tigers, and the spectator is out of an ordeal.

UGLY IN LOOKS

Even in looks the picture is quite poor. The sets are cheap and crude. The photography is erratic. The sound recording is generally incompetent. The dialogue is lethally dull. The lyrics are just commonplace. The music is nothing to sing about. The direction cannot be accused of any skill, intelligence or imagination.

From the performers, Tiger, the dog, gives the best performance in the picture. The creature looks intelligent and seems to know his job. Nirupa Roy as Roopa is ridiculously unconvincing. Jairaj as Randhir attracts attention with his wig. Nishi as the princess is tolerable in places. K. N. Singh as Shamsher gives villainy a vegetarian edge and even goes down to the tigers as if he were a bundle of hay. David as Roopa's whiskered old father puts more into the role than he probably got out of the picture. From the rest, Bhagwan and Shammi do some usual stuff.

In short, "Chal Baaz" is a miserable little picture that provides a lot of boredom.

CHAL BAAZ

Producers:	**Neo Lite Films**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story, Screenplay & Dialogue:	**C. L. Kavish**
Lyrics:	**Prem Dhawan & Anjum Jaipuri**
Music:	**Chitragupta**
Photography:	**Rusi Billimoria**
Sound:	**V. V. Gandhi & K. V. Shah**
Cast:	**Nirupa Roy, Jairaj, Nishi, K. N. Singh, David, Bhagwan, Shammi & others.**
Released At:	**Lamington, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**11th April 1958**

Directed By:
NANABHAI BHATT

OUR REVIEW

"12, O'clock", Another Unpleasant Crime Tale

Distasteful Theme Tolerably Well Presented

If motion pictures reflect the culture and social conditions of a country, India seems to be just wallowing in crime these days. Almost every second picture these days deals with crime and shows gangsters visiting death and violence upon innocent people in busy public places and broad daylight. And the way one producer after another rushes after crime themes ready to distort the shape of actual social conditions to any fantastic extent merely to serve his purpose, one feels that it is not enough to make crime unprofitable to the criminals unless it is made unprofitable also to the film producer.

Crime pictures, as a rule, are unhealthy entertainment. And they are so even when they do not glorify crime and actually render it the usual lip-disservice. Producing crime pictures is neither patriotism nor good business in the long run. It is an anti-social activity which deserves to be curbed.

Sippy Films' "12, O'clock" is another sordid crime picture, ugly in theme and content, which leaves a bad taste in the mouth. It is the story of a man who procures the murder of his wife in order to lay his hands on her fortune, sees to it that the lips of the actual murderer also are sealed in death, and exerts himself towards yet another murder when he sees his dirty designs still remaining unfulfilled.

MURDER FOR MONEY

The picture begins with Bani Chaudhary quarrelling with her sister Maya's husband Rai and leaving the home in a huff. It seems Maya has been away from the town for months during which period she has not bothered to enquire about Bani. Rai also, it seems, has not been treating Bani in a manner calculated to win her respect or affection. Anyway, whatever the reasons, and they are quite obscure, behind her rebellious mood Bani goes away to live with her maternal uncle and soon afterwards gets a secretary's job in the office of a young lawyer, Ajoy Kumar.

The lawyer, forgetting his clients' suits, straightaway starts pressing his suit for Bani's love and wins success in so little time and with such little effort that he seems to be more gifted in romantic matters than in legal matters.

Bani's brother-in-law now reveals himself to be a most sinister man who has been keeping his wife confined in a hotel room in Delhi for months while himself plotting her murder. Maya, it seems, has received a huge legacy which on her death is to go to her child and failing that to her sister Bani. Rai being romantically entangled with Nina, a cafe dancer, conspires with her to murder Maya and in order to secure Maya's wealth to pass off Nina's son, apparently illegitimate, as Maya's son.

Being a loving wife Maya suspects nothing foul about her husband and takes a train from Delhi to reach Bombay where Khanna, an accomplice of Rai, waits to shoot her dead even before her train comes to a complete halt. The day Maya is to arrive at Bombay, Bani visits Rai to demand some money which is due to her. Rai promises to pay after meeting Maya and then takes Bani along to the station, managing, on the way, to slip a gun into her handbag.

When Maya's train steams into the station with Maya standing in the door, Khanna

Women are sometimes rudely shocked. They think that they have so much to attract and to hold and yet men sometimes ignore them. Look at Mala Sinha! She cannot understand the fellow's caddish behaviour in "Ek Shola". It is an occasion to rush to the altar with grievance and tears and ask the Lord why he created cads without a vision to see the curves.

shoots her dead and then, as per plan, rushes away on a waiting motor-cycle only to meet his own death moments later in an accident caused by the motor-cycle's brakes being out of commission. He is, how-

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ever, not suspected of the murder for the time being because almost precisely at the same moment when he fired his gun Bani also somehow took out the unsuspected gun from her bag and accidentally let go a bullet.

Bani is now arrested and charged with murder, the motive being supplied by her interest in the legacy. Ajoy Kumar, the lawyer, determines to get her out and for that end along with his assistant Moti Lal decides to do some hectic sleuthing. A lot of funny and incredible things happen at the end of which Rai's innocent confession of his own guilt has been tape-recorded, while he is driven to the desperate stage where he is ready to murder Nina. The last murder, however, is averted, Rai is captured and Bani is acquitted.

AVERAGE PRODUCTION

Technically, the picture is average. The sets serve the purpose. The photography is generally good. Sound recording could have been more clear. The dialogue is undistinguished. The music ranges from pure noise to tolerable tunes. The direction, for a first attempt, is quite competent.

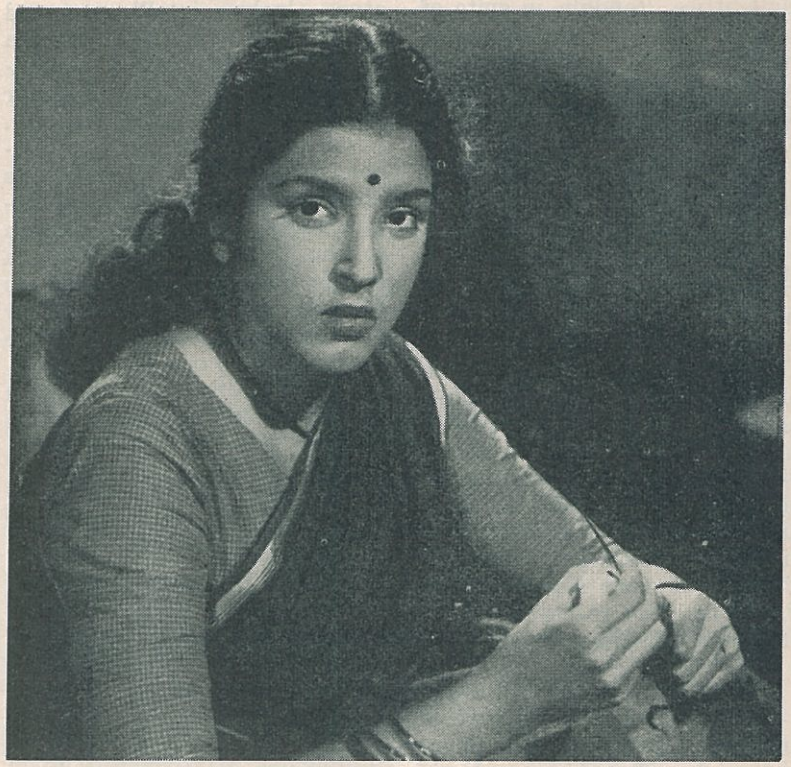
From the players, Guru Dutt as Ajoy Kumar is dull, stolid and unimpressive as usual. Waheeda Rehman as Bani backs her good looks with a capable performance. Shashikala as Nina fills the bill. Rehman as Rai does good and sincere work. From the rest, Johnny Walker as Moti Lal is quite diverting in places.

In fine, "12, O'clock" is a tolerable entertainer as crime entertainers go. But with ugly crime as its theme, it is rather a distasteful picture.

12, O'CLOCK

Producers:	**Sippy Films**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Dialogue:	**Tanveer**
Lyrics:	**Majrooh Sultanpuri**
Music:	**O. P. Nayyar**
Photography:	**V. K. Murthi**
Cast:	**Guru Dutt, Waheeda Rehman, Shashikala, Rehman, Johnny Walker & Others.**
Released At:	**Super, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**18th April 1958**

Directed By:
PRAMODE CHAKRAVORTY



A man often confuses a woman by his erratic behaviour and unnecessarily puts a strain on her thinking box. And thinking often makes a young woman look old, seeing that every thought brings a new wrinkle on the face. Shubha Khote is facing a puzzling problem in "Ek Shola", a social theme produced by Deep & Pradeep Productions.

OUR REVIEW

"Chandan" An Attractive Portrait On A Rich Canvas

Handsomely Framed Tale Draws Crowds

Dossi Films' "Chandan" is an epic-like theme portrayed with true and tried pigments and fluent strokes on a rich canvas. The portrait does not exactly drip with realistic elements but it generates plenty of popular appeal. It is not exactly absorbing or inspiring but it is extremely attractive and interesting.

Handsomely framed, the story is elemental and depicts the ancient battle between evil and virtue in sharp tones and considerable length. The villainy in it, though not very convincingly motivated, is deep-dyed, and the virtue is almost pristine and of course ultimately triumphs over evil. There is plenty of drama, emotion and colour in this story which covers a period of a couple of decades and features over a dozen characters.

Most of the aspects of the story are exploited with the usual emphasis of Director M. V. Raman who seems to know not only his onions but his customers as well. The picture therefore keeps on gliding from a singing moment to a dancing one, from tears to laughter, from high-pitched melodrama to unmixed farce. Though the compass of the story and the number of characters are rather unwieldy items, they exert no more drag on the picture than does the parachute on a soldier bailing out. The picture, in short, makes a safe landing and delivers the goods.

VILLAINY Vs. VIRTUE

The story revolves round Moti, an evil man with wickedness flowing in his veins instead of blood. When the picture opens Moti is having a fine time in the company of Rati, his private pleasure with a nice gyrating figure, and Gulgul, Rati's pint-sized and pimp-looking chaperone. Their gaiety is disturbed by the news that Moti's step-brother was awaiting death. Moti is totally unmoved by the news, and Bhola, the step-brother's servant who entreats him to visit the dying man is thrown out.

Moments later, however, upon consideration of a scheme put forward by Gulgul, Moti rushes to his brother only to find him dead and his widow Rukmini in tears. Moti enthusiastically plays an earnest mourner and wins the confidence of Rukmini to the point where she is ready to let him move into her house along with Gulgul and Rati, whom she believes to be Moti's wife. Within days of his moving into Rukmini's house, Moti manages to get the house transferred in his name and after that the three scheming intruders openly start making life miserable for Rukmini and her two little sons Gopal and Chandan.

Learning that Bhola was about to get legal aid for his mistress, Moti decides to get Gopal and Chandan murdered, a decision which is overheard by Rukmini who then leaves the house in terror. Rukmini finds shelter in a church but her younger son Chandan is soon kidnapped. She reconciles to the tragedy and starts working in the church but Moti crosses her path again and getting her framed in the murder of a child succeeds in sending her to jail for a 14-year term.

Now, while Rukmini starts working the millstones, Gopal is being brought up by the kind-hearted priest of the church, and Chandan, who through coincidence manages to reach the house of Bhola, the old loyal servant.

Years roll by and Rukmini is released from jail. By now Gopal becomes a lawyer, and Chandan a gay youth helping his godfather and his grown-up daughter Kamla by doing odd but honest chores like carrying luggage, selling sweets and working the grind-stone. Rukmini runs by turns into each of her sons and receives kindness from them but is of course unable to recognize her sons in them just as they are unable to recognize their mother in her.

TIME FOR ROMANCE

Gopal helps Rukmini to open a fruit shop and visits her whenever he can find time from his budding romance with Mala, the daughter of Moti's employee, Banarsi Das. The antics-loving Chandan, in turn, picks up a promising acquaintance with Ranjana, a young law graduate and the sister of a police inspector.

The old fashioned "tilak" on the forehead does not quite match with the modern curls on the top of the head. But then modern girls are an amalgam of various necessities of life. Mala Sinha gives a good account of herself in "Parvarish", a social theme produced by Roop Kala Pictures.

Moti, with his lust having only increased with his age, sets the climax moving nearer by attempting to rape Kamla when she comes to sell flowers to his house. After a hard fight Kamla escapes dishonour by jumping from a height but she is unable to escape death. The tragedy leaves Chandan burning with vengeance against Kamla's attacker. As he goes to Moti's house armed with a knife to wreak vengeance, things take a different turn and he finds himself arrested for the murder of Rati into whom Moti had hurled a knife after a bitter quarrel with her over his lustful attack on Kamla.

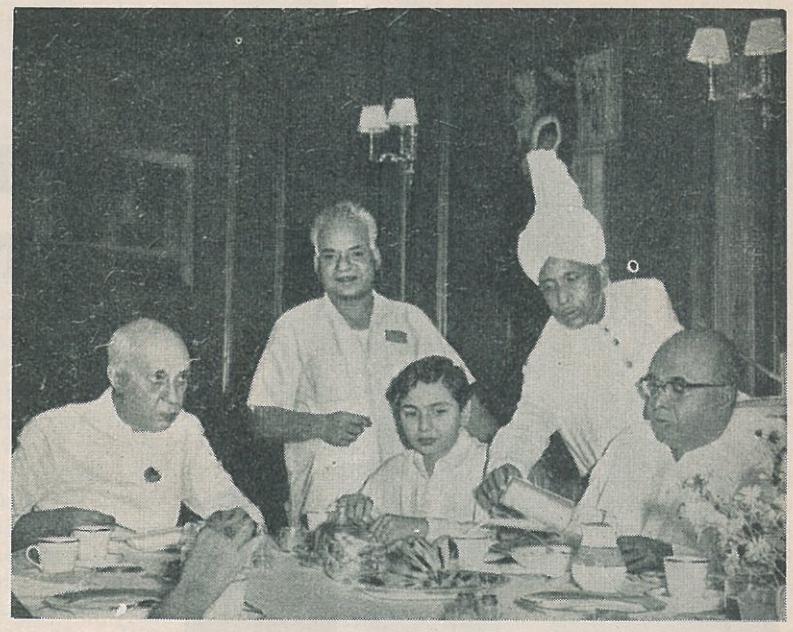
Chandan, however, manages to escape and becomes a fugitive from justice. For some time he gets shelter and romance from none other than Ranjana, the sister of the police inspector. Then he finds refuge in the house of Gopal who by now has Mala living with him as his wife and Rukmini as his guest.

Moti and Chandan meet once again and this time when Moti tries desperately to rob the chastity of Mala, whom he had long but unsuccessfully tried to bring to his bed. Rushing to rescue Mala, Chandan engages in a long duel with Moti when the lights go off and Moti is at long last killed by a bullet. Arrested, Chandan admits the murder of Moti, though not of Rati. Follow some court scenes which are more amusing than convincing.

The screenplay turns the trial of Chandan into a sort of family affair by putting his brother Gopal in the judge's seat, his sister-in-law Mala in the witness-box and his beloved Ranjana in the defence counsel's role. Since by now the relationship between Rukmini, Gopal and Chandan is revealed, Gopal finds it hard yet pursues his bounden duty to show no partiality to Chandan. In the dramatic and rather far-fetched climax Rati turns up alive and saves Chandan's neck by confessing and proving herself as the murderer of Moti. The rest is then all smiles.

LAVISH PRODUCTION

Produced on a lavish scale, the picture exhibits generally first-rate production values.



On 17th April 1958, Prime Minister Nehru invited Producer A. V. Meiyappan to breakfast at the Prime Minister's house. Nehru was happy because Mr. Meiyappan was the first producer in India to win the Prime Minister's Gold Medal for the first time in four years for his picture "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke". Master Romi, the child star of the picture, is seen between the Producer and the Prime Minister.

The sets are excellent. The photography by Fali Mistry is uniformly fine both in black and white and colour portions. The sound recording registers occasional lapses from clarity. The dialogue serves the purpose but it could be shorter in wind. The music is quite lilting in a couple of songs. The direction bears the usual stamp of M. V. Raman, the box-office magician. It is not so subtle but sure and effective.

From the players, Nutan as Ranjana has little to do besides looking beautiful which she does breathtakingly at times. Her performance in the court room is, however, very effective. Kishore as Chandan generally does well although there is more enthusiasm than talent in his performance. In his comedy scenes, however, he is quite funny. Shyama as Rati is convincing in an unconvincing role. Pran as Moti is effective. Achala Sachdev as Rukmini does some good and sincere work. Mala Sinha as Mala acts well but she should try to weigh less. Karan Dewan as Gopal is acceptable generally but some of the faces he makes are too funny to suit a serious role. Raj Mehra as Bhola gives an excellent performance. David, in a brief role, makes an impressive priest. K. N. Singh in another brief role, makes a businesslike police inspector. Johnny Walker as the comic constable provides some good laughs. Kamla Laxman as Kamla acts with a touch of self-consciousness but dances with superb grace. From the rest, Randhir as Gulgul fills the bill.

In fine, "Chandan" is a lavish entertainer with bright box-office prospects. It should enable Producer Fali Mistry to launch another lavish entertainer.

CHANDAN

Producers:	**Dossi Films**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story:	**M. S. Solaimalai**
Lyrics & Dialogue:	**Rajendra Krishan**
Music:	**Madan Mohan**
Photography:	**Fali Mistry**
Sound:	**Ishan Ghosh**
Cast:	**Nutan, Kishore, Shyama, Mala Sinha, Pran, Achala Sachdev, Kamla Laxman, Raj Mehra, Karan Dewan, Johnny Walker, David and K. N. Singh.**
Released At:	**Eros & Novelty, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**25th April 1958**

Directed By:
M. V. RAMAN

Paul Robeson, in whose glorious voice the world heard a wail of humanity.

THE MAN WHO SAID "NO" TO HOLLYWOOD

How Paul Robeson Sacrificed His Million-dollar Career As a Film Star For A Principle

By

KHWAJA AHMED ABBAS

In Hollywood, and elsewhere in the world of cinema wherever the star system prevails, the phenomenon of popular stars fading out of the filmic horizon is a normal one. As the fans find new favourites, the old ones must drift into oblivion. Paul Robeson is the only example of a film star who voluntarily sacrificed his million-dollar career and stopped accepting movie contracts which were offered to him—for the sake of a principle. And the principle was that a man and specially an artist with any kind of integrity owes it to himself to see that he is not used to misrepresent, misinterpret, ridicule or slander his own people.

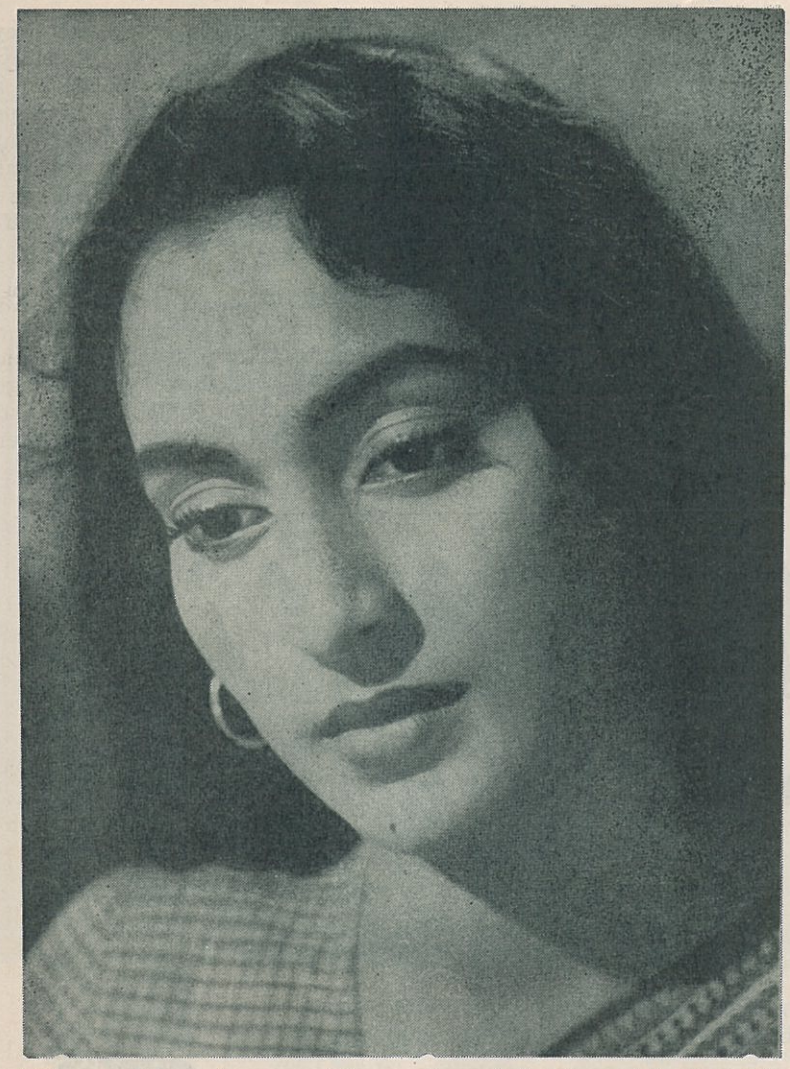
Everyone today knows of Paul Robeson as a great Negro singer, a great fighter for the rights of his people, and a controversial political personality who is often in the news. But since he has not appeared in any film for more than fifteen years, a whole generation of movie-goers, are unaware of his once-great position as a film star of international renown. It may be useful, therefore, to make a brief survey of Paul Robeson's films not only to assess his particular contribution to this art but also to gauge the remarkable measure of his integrity, self-respect and sense of social responsibility. In the West a man is known by how much he has made. In the East, and specially in India, a man is honoured for what he has sacrificed. We shall know what Paul Robeson **is** by considering what he was and what he **could have been!**

In 1930, when he made his first screen appearance, Paul Robeson was already a stage personality equally famous on both sides of the Atlantic. He had appeared on Broadway in Eugene O'Neill's plays, "All God's Chillun Got Wings" and "The Emperor Jones" and won plaudits from such eminent stage critics as George Jean Nathan who wrote, "Robeson is one of the most thoroughly eloquent, impressive and convincing actors that I have looked at and listened to in almost twenty years of professional theatre going." And the author, O'Neill himself paid this tribute to the actor: "In Paul Robeson's interpretation of Brutus Jones I have found the most complete satisfaction an author can get—that of seeing his creation born into the flesh and blood." In England and in other countries on the Continent he was equally successful on the stage, both as an actor and singer. He was hailed as "a singer of genuine power" and of his spirituals it was said that "Sung by one man, they voiced the sorrows and hopes of a whole people." He combined both his talents as actor and singer in Edna Ferber's musical play "Show Boat", and his wonderful personality and beautiful singing voice won him a large fan following among London theatre-goers.

It was with this background that he made his first screen appearance. It is interesting to recall that it was in a **silent** film that this great singer made his screen debut. It was an experimental **avante garde** film, "Borderline", and it was produced by Kenneth Macpherson, editor of "Close Up", a serious journal of cinema theory. Paul Robeson played the leading role of a young Negro vagrant who comes to a small Central European town. Macpherson was an intellectual and a progressive, free from any racial prejudices, and the Negro character created by him and played by Robeson had dignity, humour and good fellowship. This silent film made at a time when talkies had just become the craze was not widely shown but it was important because of its sympathetic treatment of Negro characters, and because it was the first film of Paul Robeson.

In 1933, in New York, Paul Robeson made his first talking film. It was a screen version of O'Neill's "The Emperor Jones", a part which Robeson had already played with signal success on the stage. For the first time in an American film a Negro played the leading role in a mixed cast. For this reason, it was boycotted in the Southern states, and was a financial failure. But the critics showered high praise on Robeson whose "work showed that he had reached maturity as an actor, and was potentially one of the greatest screen personalities."

Robeson returned to England to star in the British film of Edgar Wallace's "Sanders Of The River" which was produced by Alexander Korda. This film was shown in India in 1935 or 1936 and the progressive Indian film critics slashed it for what it was, a piece of imperialist propaganda glorifying the British colonials and slandering the African people as cowardly, superstitious and sub-human. But everyone was agreed that the film was somewhat redeemed by the appearance of Robeson who plays the role of a loyal African chief who saves the life of the British Commissioner



When a girl reaches a certain age her mind gets certain thoughts. The thoughts have in them both hope and fear. That is an age for tight-rope walking. One false step and the whole life of the girl is ruined. Nutan is weighing her chances carefully in "Sujata", a social theme produced by Bimal Roy Productions.

Sanders. His personality, performance and specially his singing voice impressed every one who saw this film, regardless of how one reacted to its obviously imperialist slant. An American critic wrote of this film: "Here we have the pathetic spectacle of one of the most gifted and distinguished members of his race placed in a position where in actuality he is forced into caricatures of his people." When he saw the finished film, Paul Robeson was very unhappy and spoke openly of his dissatisfaction with the film, but there was little he could do about it. But he declared that he would pay more attention to the scripts and treatments of his films in future.

Soon after completing **'Sanders'** Robeson went on a visit to the Soviet Union and told an interviewer in Moscow: "In Soviet Russia I breathe freely for the first time in my life. It is clear that, whether a Negro is politically a Communist or not, the modern Russians are our best friends". He also declared that, "The most important development in Soviet culture I have seen is in the moving picture field." It was then that he met that genius of the Soviet cinema, Sergei Eisenstein who was so impressed with the great Negro actor that he invited him to play the principal role in one of his films. It is said that Eisenstein wanted to make 'Othello' with Robeson as the tragic Moor. But Robeson could not stay on because of his earlier commitments to sing in concerts in different countries of Europe. He promised to go to Russia again as soon as he was free, but then the war intervened, and soon after that Eisenstein died. It is a sad reflection that these two great artistes could not work together, for 'Othello' directed by Eisenstein and played by Robeson could not but be a masterpiece of cinema.

When he returned from Russia, he received many tempting offers from Hollywood and British Studios to appear in the same kind of roles as "Sanders Of The River" but Robeson steadfastly refused, accepting only one contract to act and sing in the small role of Jim in the screen version of Edna Ferber's "Show Boat" (some older cinegoers in India will remember seeing him in this film and the wonderful songs he sang including the world-famous "Ole Man River"). It was a sentimental role, not anti-Negro, but it did not satisfy the creative urge of Robeson which required larger and more important vehicles of expression.

In 1936 he began working in one of his most important films, "Song Of Freedom". Of this film, an English journalist who interviewed Robeson during its shooting, wrote: "Robeson, who is now working on his new film, "Song Of Freedom" feels that in it he is representing the Negro race and overcoming colour prejudice. He feels this not because he is conceited, but because he realizes that he is the most publicised Negro in the world. It was only because the film presents Negroes as ordinary human beings, and not the caricatures that are invariably shown in American films, that Robeson consented to make it. He has turned down many offers because he felt they did not show the Negro in a sympathetic light".

"Song Of Freedom", which was based on an African legend, in an allegorical way told the story of Paul Robeson himself. The central character was a young Negro dock-worker in England whose wonderful bass voice is heard at an amateur concert by an impressario who immediately engages him to give concerts. The Negro singer is a great success, but his life takes a dramatic turn when he learns that he is the descendant of an African Chief and that his tribe is without a leader and his people are in trouble. "Torn between his natural desire for fame and success in England and the urge to return to his people in Africa, the singer becomes unhappy and finally he decides to return to his own people." In "Film Weekly" (1936), Robeson wrote an article about this film which also contained some general remarks about his attitude to the cinema: ".....Song Of Freedom" is a kind of test piece. It gives me a real part for the first time. I have always been up against two difficulties on the screen. The first, and less important, is that my reputation as a singer has misled producers into refusing to try me out as an actor. The second is the difficulty that confronts all coloured artistes. Film producers take the attitude that a Negro must be a romanticised puppet (usually comic) or else be of no interest to filmgoers at all. You saw the result in "Show Boat". I was given a sentimental bit which did little more than feature me in a couple of songs. I feel that I can do much more on the screen than that. I made "Song Of Freedom" to prove my point.....the story presents me as a real man—no more romanticized than a white man would be in a similar role. It is the first step in my effort to break down the prejudice that somehow Negroes must always be 'different' on the screen."

In 1937 he appeared in "King Solomon's Mines", based on the Rider Haggard story, in which he played the role of Umbopa, the friendly African who accompanies Alan Quartermaine on his perilous journey. Of Robeson in this film a critic wrote: "There was little opportunity for characterisation in the part of this strong, simple giant, but Robeson infused it with as much personality as he possibly could...."

His next film "Jericho" (1938) gave him much better scope for his histrionic talent. He played the role of a Negro soldier under sentence of death who escapes from war-time France to Africa, there to live as a desert Sheikh. Here was a Negro hero who, in the words of a critic, "was twice as intelligent, attractive and heroic as

the white characters in the film".

In the same year he started working in another British film "Big Fella". Here the central Negro character was a shiftless, dockside worker, unable to keep a job. One day he meets a little white child, an orphan, who takes a liking to the black giant and insists on 'adopting' him as his father. This brings about a change in the shiftless Negro and at last he becomes a steady character to look after the child. Not only in relation to this child, but also other white characters, fellow dock-workers, this film depicted a natural brotherhood between the White and Black working people. That's why it is one of his films which Paul Robeson loves to recall.

His last British film before the war broke out and he returned to U.S.A. was "The Proud Valley" which is regarded by some as his most important film. Like "Big Fella", it dealt with the comradeship of white and Negro workers, this time against the background of a coalmine in Wales. It was a wonderful role for Robeson, as the Negro miner who befriends a white miner and his family, the scenes down the mine, the hunger march of the unemployed miners to London, the Negro leading a chorus on the way, and the final dramatic denouement when the Negro dies to save his white comrades.

On his return to America, at the beginning of the war, Robeson reached the peak of his stage career by playing Othello on Broadway. But his last experience of Hollywood was disillusioning. He was somehow persuaded to work in "Tales Of Manhattan" (It was seen in India in 1943 or 1944), thinking that the small role of a poor and superstitious Negro offered him in this episodic story of a dress suit may be played in a way that would be sympathetic, but when he saw the edited film on the screen, he was shocked to see himself as a caricature rather than a character. It was then that he decided finally to refuse all roles in commercial Hollywood films unless he was absolutely satisfied that not only his own role but all Negro characters portrayed in it were treated with sympathy as normal human beings.

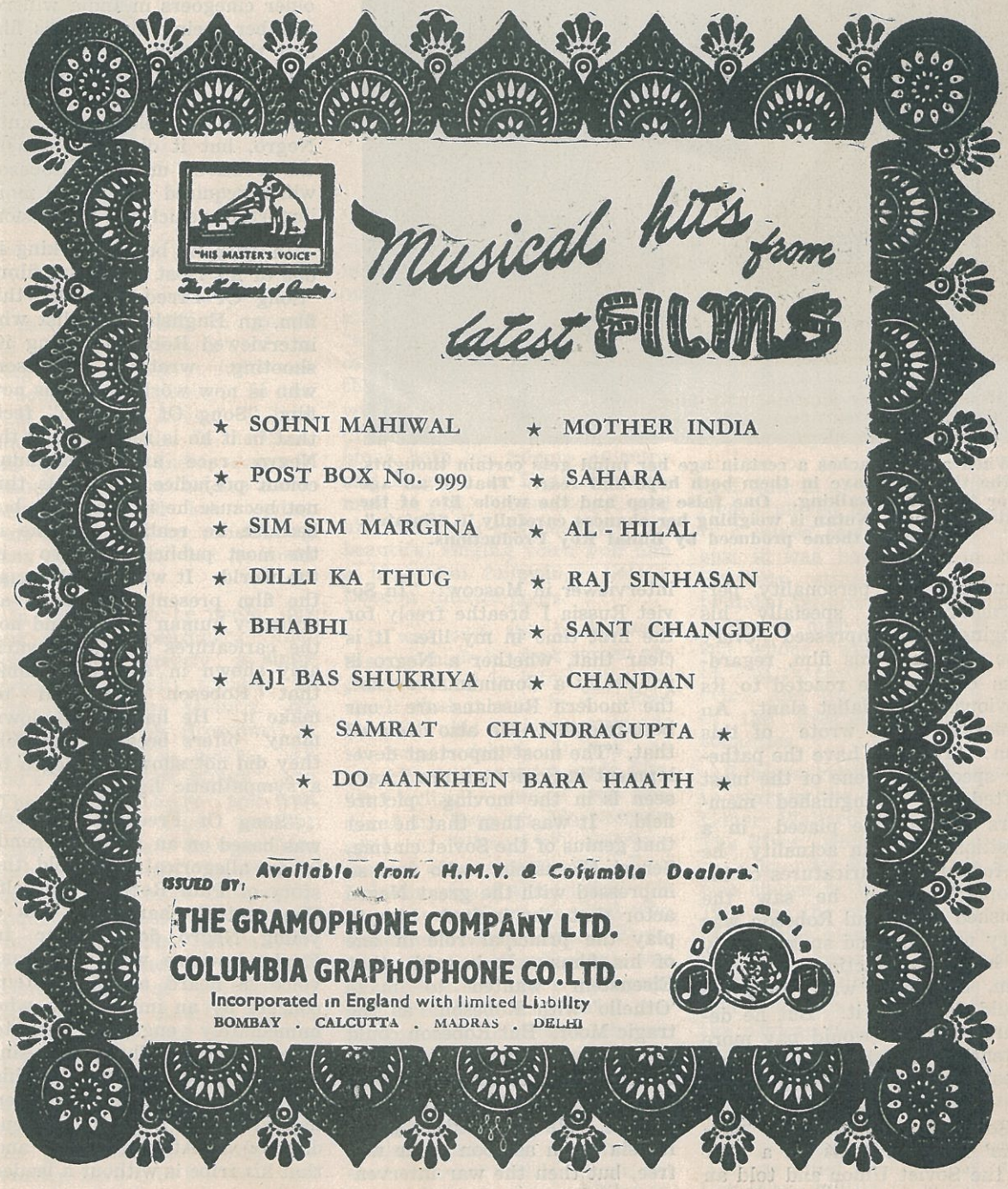
Since then he refused many tempting offers but he stuck to his decision even though it cost him complete disappearance from the American screen. What he lost in money (and he sacrificed chances to make millions) he gained in dignity for himself and for his people.

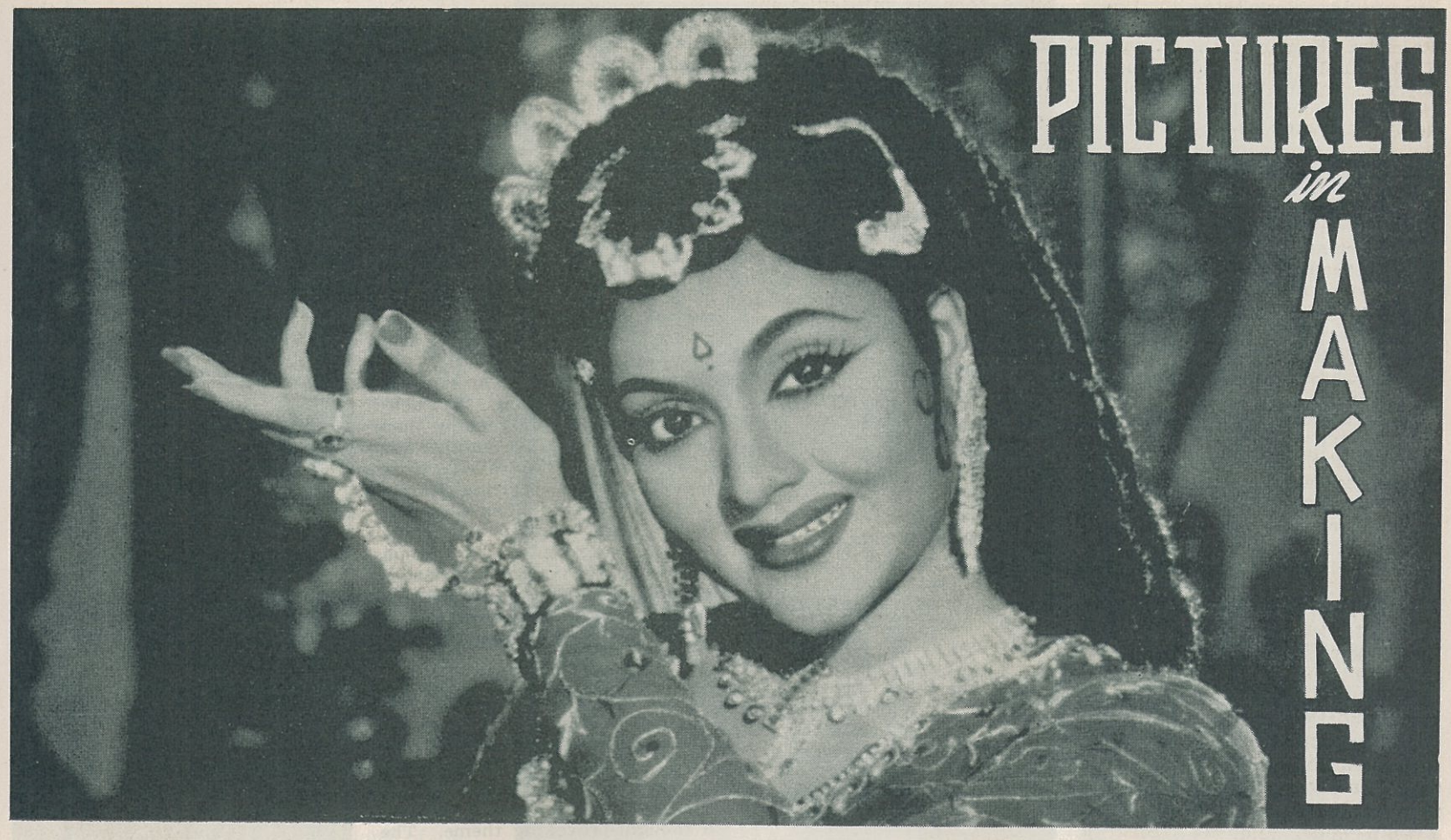
That is why and how this great film star of yesterday is not seen in the films of today.

Paul Robeson's voluntary abdication from Hollywood is in sharp contrast with some of our own artistes who are prepared to play any kind of roles (be they merely stupid or downright reactionary) if they are paid a sufficient amount. A well-known Indian dancer appeared in British and American films that depicted Indians and Orientals in far from a flattering light. And several of our artistes were willing to work in an anti-Indian film like "Bhowani Junction"—only they did not get a chance, as at the last moment it was decided to shoot "India" in the more friendly country of Pakistan!

In honouring him, as they did on his Sixtieth Birthday, the Indian film stars saluted a great brother artiste. I hope they also paid homage to that cause which Paul Robeson has upheld—the cause of human dignity—at considerable self-sacrifice.

His life, his career and his tremendous sacrifices are a source of inspiration to all true artistes who have the courage to refuse to sell themselves and their art to the highest bidder in the market-place.





Here is another charmer with long fingers which reveal a lot of art but little heart. Behind those eloquent eyes there must be a clever design for living so perfectly camouflaged by an apparently innocent smile. But this is what they call acting art, a blanket under which modern women hide their devilish designs. Vyjayantimala, a superb artiste, gives an excellent account of herself in "Raj Tilak", a thrilling entertainer produced and directed by S. S. Vasan for Gemini Studios.

"Mother India" Celebrates Several Silver Jubilees —"Raj Tilak" Draws Crowds—Three Kumars Star Again In "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi"—"Talaq" Unit Goes To Mahabaleshwar—Mohan Segal Tackles New Theme In "Apna Hath Jagannath" —"Naya Paisa" Is Ready For The Screen— "Bhabhi" Heading For Jubilee—"Hathkadi" Awaiting Release.

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director Mehboob's "Mother India" starring Nargis completed a silver jubilee at the Liberty, Bombay, and is still going strong. The popularity of "Mother India" has not been confined only to Bombay. Wherever there are masses eager to experience a new emotional thrill, the picture has done record business. That is not surprising because "Mother India" has neatly-woven emotional situations that cannot but fail to strike a common chord in their hearts. "Mother India" was also the unique recipient of five 'Filmfare' awards for 1957 for best direction, best picture, best acting, best photography and best sound. In Hollywood, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voted "Mother India" as one of the best five pictures in the world. It is a picture of which every Indian should be proud. Mehboob's production programme for 1958 has suffered a temporary set back owing to a sudden heart attack which he got while in Hollywood. He is expected to return to Bombay in a month's time.

GEMINI STUDIOS (Madras)

At last the eagerly-awaited mammoth "Raj Tilak", produced and directed by S. S. Vasan, had an all-India premiere on Friday, April 11. In Bombay, the premiere at the Roxy was a colourful affair crowded with stars, producers, directors, etc., even though Mr. Vasan, the host, could not be present on this happy occasion. As predicted by us "Raj Tilak" has taken audiences by storm because of its dazzling spectacle, fast-moving story, thrilling sword fights and the magnificent duel dance. The duel dance between two top dancers of the screen—Padmini and Vyjayantimala—ending in a dead-heat, is a treat for the eyes. Never before has a dance of this magnitude come on the screen which only a director of Mr. Vasan's capacity could handle with competence and confidence. "Raj Tilak" is a mass entertainer and likely to run well all over India. "Raj Tilak" has the biggest star cast imaginable: to mention only a few, Vyjayantimala, Padmini, Ganesan, Jagirdar, Pran, Durga Khote, Agha and Shammi.

K. S. FILMS (Bombay)

"Girnar" these days, is becoming a popular outdoor location for film producers. During the month director Satyen Bose shot at "Girnar" a sequence of "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi" starring Madhubala opposite the three Kumar brothers—Ashok, Anoop and Kishore. "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi" is a rollicking comedy with a fine musical score by S. D. Burman. Others in the cast are Veena, K. N. Singh, Sahira and Sajjan.

ANUPAM CHITRA (Bombay)

The "Talaq" unit went to Mahabaleshwar to add some pictorial quality to this domestic social which is being directed by Mahesh Kaul and jointly produced by him and Pandit Mukhram Sharma. One song of "Talaq" was picturized against the background of Lingmala Waterfalls. Newcomer Kamini

Kadam plays the heroine opposite Rajendra Kumar with Kusum Thakur and Aswini lending good support. "Talaq" has a revolutionary theme with excellent direction by Mahesh Kaul.

DE LUX FILMS (Bombay)

"Apna Hath Jagannath" is a subject which is reported to have fascinated Producer-director Mohan Segal since his college days. The theme is something after Pandit Nehru's own heart. Nehru has often criticized the 'White Collar' mentality of the middle classes and their snobbish habit of looking down upon manual labour as something low and hateful. This is exactly the theme that Segal hopes to tackle in this sensational social "Apna Hath Jagannath". The screenplay is being written by Maharashtrian playwright G. D. Madgulkar. The full cast has still to be finalized. Kishore Kumar, however, has been signed to play the male lead. Nazir Hussein and Jagdev have been cast in important roles.

SUPER PICTURES (Bombay)

Producer-director Aspi Irani completed "Naya Paisa", a satirical comedy starring Chand Usmani, Johnny Walker, Agha and guest artiste Nadira. "Naya Paisa" has catchy music by S. Mohinder and with Agha in the cast filmgoers can expect an unrationed quota of laughs. Others in the cast are Krishna Kumari, Shammi, Tun Tun and Indira Bansal. "Naya Paisa" will be released soon.

AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

While Producer Meiyappan's "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke" was the proud recipient of the Prime Minister's Gold Medal as the best children's film of 1957, his domestic social "Bhabhi" is quietly heading for a silver jubilee at the Swastik and Surya Cinemas in Bombay and at many other towns all over India. "Bhabhi" is the story of a joint family with Balraj Sahni playing the eldest brother and Pandari Bai his devoted wife. The drama is knit round the disintegration of the family that brings sorrow in its wake. Ultimately the younger brothers realize their folly and again unite. At the AVM Studios, "Maa Bete" based on the Tamil hit "Naalvar" has made rapid progress. "Maa Bete" stars Shyama opposite Ashok Kumar supported by Mainavathi, Jagdeep, Lalita Pawar, Kanhaiyalal, Baburao Pendharkar and others. Direction is by Raja Paranjpe while Rajendra Krishna has written the lyrics and dialogue. Madan Mohan is reported to have given some attractive music in "Maa Bete".

D. S. FILMS (Bombay)

"Hathkadi" produced by Dhanwant Shah and directed by Sudarshan Bhatia was censored on April 19, 1958, and is now ready for all-India release. Shakila, Motilal, Sajjan, Amarnath and Jabeen lead the cast of "Hathkadi" which is reported to have become a highly emotional picture. The musical score is by Nashad.

DOSSI FILMS (PRIVATE) LTD. (Bombay)

"Chandan" produced by Fali Mistry and directed by M. V. Raman had a gala premiere at the Eros, Bombay, on the night of April 25. Slickly produced with many touching dramatic moments, "Chandan" has plenty of mass appeal. The highlight of "Chandan" is a ten-minute Technicolor ballet starring Nutan. The classic beauty of her features has been captured by Fali Mistry in a classic manner and this alone makes "Chandan" a memorable experience, apart from the excellent portrayal of Achla Sachdev as the suffering mother.

BIMAL ROY PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Everyone is anxiously awaiting the release of Producer-director Bimal Roy's "Madhumati". "Madhumati" has not merely a pleasing title. The contents, with Vyjayantimala and Dilip Kumar playing the romantic lovers, are even more pleasing. Dilip is always known to give his love scenes a realistic touch. In "Madhumati", Dilip excels at this ancient game because of his favourite heroine Vyjayantimala. "Madhumati" is an unsophisticated love tale of the hills and is expected to thrill filmgoers whenever it comes to the screen. "Madhumati" has an able supporting cast led by Pran, Johnny Walker and Jayant. Bimal is now concentrating on "Sujata" starring Nutan. Nutan is at her best in a dramatic role and as the untouchable girl Sujata, she gives to it her distinctive touch that filmgoers have come to love so much. Sunil Dutt is the boy who falls in love with Sujata in spite of opposition from all sides.

RAMAN PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

While everyone keeps discussing the weather, Producer-director M. V. Raman sits unruffled in the stuffy studios directing scenes of his spectacular Technicolor "Jwala" starring Madhubala, Sunil Dutt, Jagirdar, Vijaylakshmi and Sohrab Modi. The hot weather doesn't worry Raman who has, of course, experienced the worst summers in his home town Madras. More than half of "Jwala" is ready and the rushes that were shown at a sneak preview were truly breath-taking. The story is exciting and the colour more so. "Jwala" is likely to be a big box-office hit because it emphasizes the virtues of chivalry and patriotism. Director Raman is also busy shooting "Apna Paraya" starring Jayashree. A song in Technicolor capturing the delicate beauty of Jayashree has been picturized. Yet another is a picture in Tamil called "Konjum Solangai" starring Kamla Laxman. This one has a variety of Bharat Natyam numbers beautifully executed by Kamla in colour. "Raja Beta" produced by Shri Vallabh Productions and starring Kamini Kaushal and Ajit is ready for release.

MANMOHAN FILMS (Bombay)

Nine reels of "Bhagwan Aur Shaitan" are ready. Written by well-known producer-journalist K. A. Abbas and directed by Manmohan Sabir, "Bhagwan Aur Shaitan" is reported to contain a thought-provoking theme. The picture stars Sheila Ramani, Jairaj, Agha, Shammi, etc. Five songs of this picture have been recorded and two more are being recorded this month. "Bhagwan Aur Shaitan" is expected to be ready for release in July 1958.

SADIQ PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director M. Sadiq, who specializes in Johnny Walker comedies, is reported to have made "Khota Paisa" a hilarious comedy. More than three-fourths of "Khota Paisa" has been canned and the rest is expected to be finished soon. The cast of "Khota Paisa" has Shyama and Johnny Walker in the main roles with Veena, Jeevan, S. N. Banerji, Dhumal, Indira Bansal, Ameer Banoo and Rajen Haksar lending support. Music is by Madan Mohan.

ANJALI PICTURES (Madras)

Producer Adi Narayan Rau has begun the shooting of the Hindi version of Anjali Pictures' silver jubilee hit "Suvarna Sundari". The picture which has still to be christened stars Shyama, Kum Kum, Daisy Irani, Agha, Radhakishan, I. S. Johar and Dhumal. Direction is by V. Raghavaiah. The world rights of this picture are controlled by Rajshri Productions.

All that modern girls need is a cloth curtain with a South Indian temple painted on it to provoke them to raise their arms and twist them into some odd shapes and then call it art. Well, it is art according to the sculptures of our gods found on the temples of our faith. Padmini brings some rare rhythm to the screen in "Raagini", a thrilling entertainer produced by Ashok Pictures.

DEEP & PRADEEP PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

"Police" a crime thriller starring Madhubala and Pradeep Kumar and directed by Kalidas is ready for release. Filmgoers who like to have suspense and thrills in their entertainment should not miss "Police". In addition, "Police" has some intriguing love scenes between Madhubala and Pradeep Kumar. Music is by Hemant Kumar. At the studios, director Chander Saigal has nearly completed "Ek Shola" starring Mala Sinha opposite Pradeep Kumar. Madan Mohan has composed the music for "Ek Shola".

Letters submitted for this section should not have more than 25 lines. Rs.5/- will be paid for every letter published in this section.

WOES & ECHOES

Go where you will you cannot escape these posing passion-flowers of modern life. Never was a woman's figure used with more devastating effect than in the present days when rhythm is lent to curves and romance is painted in footwork. Helen, who has not launched a thousand ships in India yet but hypnotized a score of producers, brings a rare thrill to the screen in "Chalti Ka Nam Gadi", a thrilling entertainer produced by K.S. Films.

CLEARING THE CONFUSION?

"While thanking you for your humorous reply to Mr. B. C. Mirchandani in the February issue of 'filmindia', I regret to draw your kind attention to the fact that "Jana-gana-mana" was neither composed nor sung in praise of King George. It was publicly sung on the second day (i.e. December 27, 1911 Wednesday) of the Calcutta Congress Session before the day's proceedings commenced. It is no secret to state here that at the very session of A.I.C.C., a resolution welcoming Their Royal Majesties' visit was adopted and this was followed by another Hindi song "Jug jil mera padsa caun dis raj sabaya" in honour of Their Imperial Majesties.

"And again in 1917, this song "Jana-gana-mana" was sung at the Calcutta session of A.I.C.C. presided over by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan who in his presidential address expressed his high opinion and paid his glorious tribute to this song.

"However, a controversy relating to its origin and source of inspiration caught the notice of the poet and he vehemently protested against this wrong belief in 1937.

"I quote herewith some portions of the report, published in the Bengalee (Editor: Surendra Nath Banerjee) dated December 28, 1911.

"The proceedings commenced with a patriotic song composed by Babu Rabindra Nath Tagore, the leading poet of Bengal (Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka)....

".....A Hindi song paying heartfelt homage to Their Imperial Majesties was sung by the Bengali boys and girls in chorus."

"It is needless to quote more of the authoritative reports in support of my conviction; but I request your readers to go through the nationalist papers of the time.

"In conclusion, I must caution your readers regarding the misleading reports of the Anglo Indian Press which were far from truth and contradictory to each other."

EGRA. **Dulal Das.**

HONOURING THE WRONG ONE

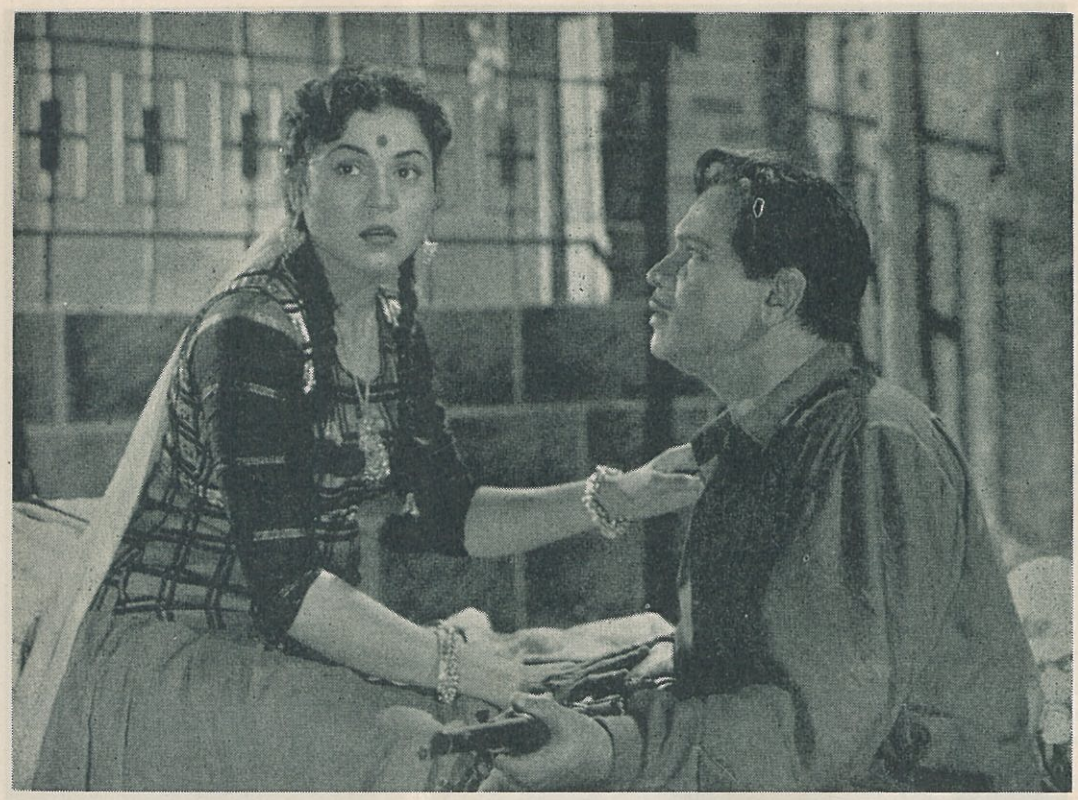
"Durbar College, Rewa, is an institution established by the former rulers of the Rewa State. It goes to their credit that they established such a good institution. It has now been rechristened as Thakur Ranamat Singh College in memory of a 1857 martyr.

"Heroes should be honoured but it doesn't look decent and equitable that the names of the creators should be so unceremoniously replaced. It is definitely unfair and unethical on the part of the Government to do so. Homage to Thakur Ranamat Singh should have been paid but not by transferring to him the glory and credit of the work of others. A new college could have been built in his memory."

NOWGONG. **Vandana.**

ENCOURAGING THE DACOITS

"Despite numerous complaints and requests to the authorities concerned that the Grand Trunk Road, which is the main link between U.P. and Delhi, has many pits and is also without lights, resulting in serious accidents and encounters by the dacoits, no action has so far been taken to attend to the complaints. It will be noticed that this road has no light at all



Men always rush to the revolver in moments of crisis but women always stop them. Nirupa Roy knows a better way of dealing with the intruder and she stops the impulsive action of Jairaj in "Chal Baaz", a thrilling action drama produced by Neolite Films.

after crossing the Jamuna bridge till Navin Shahdara and it cannot be denied that this is the busiest part of the road.

"Now this road will be directly under the control of the newly formed Corporation. It is hoped that this complaint will be heard. The authorities would do well if priority is given to provide street lights on this road and also fill up the many pits immediately.

"But if it is the intention of the authorities to put to trouble the general masses and to encourage encounters with dacoits, as is the design in many states, we should not expect any action on this complaint."

NEW DELHI. **N. K. Malhotra.**

WAKING UP THE DEAD?

" 'Filmindia' has been the watchdog of the nation and in the past it has splendidly served the nation by the timely comments editorially and through 'Judas' on matters pertaining to India and Indians. It is a well-known fact that many foreign films, which hurt the susceptibilities of Indians, have been banned chiefly through the zealous efforts of "filmindia".

"Now in the March issue, 'Judas' has brought to light the existence of a slanderous attack on Hindus in "High". In the past we have had the unfortunate experience of seeing from films and magazines, the utter moral degradation to which some of the Americans have descended—at least this is the opinion such films lead us to form. The American sex-loaded films and vulgar magazines have poisoned the minds of millions of people, and today, thanks to these films, India is reaping a rich harvest of crime.

"Powell, the author of the article, has the audacity to label the Hindus "the filthiest race", when his own people lead their lives in the most revolting manner. Americans like Powell are a disgrace to the human race though there must be thousands of good Americans too.

"Why has a Ministry for Culture been created when such scurillous publications as "High" are allowed into India? Was it created merely to give another whitecap a Ministry to serve his own ends? The people deserve such humiliations and much more for having invested power in the hands of a Government which seems indifferent to this kind of wrong propaganda.

"As the Government has shown in the past that it doesn't mind in the least the humiliations to which Indians, and Hindus in particular, are subjected at the hands of foreigners, it is perhaps too much to expect the Government to take some stern action, like banning the entry of such magazines into India. May God help the helpless people of India, that is Bharat!"

NAWALAPITIYA. **S. Suntheralingam.**

THEY WERE SLEEPING

"Did you go through a newsreport that two telephone numbers 27003 and 25057 listed under 'Inquiries, Delhi Main Station' in the Telephone Directory actually do not belong to the 'Inquiries, D.M.S.', but to two telephone owners who must be the most unfortunate anywhere? Each is said to be receiving over 400 calls a day and the Post & Telegraphs Department is said to be earning Rs. 100|- per day from this nuisance for the last six months since the new directory was published. Will the Post & Telegraphs Department take the trouble to explain why the necessary steps were not taken by it immediately to remove this drawback?"

DELHI. **Jagdish Jain.**

A NEW APPROACH

"You deserve all praise for your bold, straightforward and masterly editorial "Pandora's Box" in the 'filmindia' of March issue. Please accept my heartiest congratulations.

"I have been reading on the Insurance Scandal in quite a number of papers, but yours was easily the most convincing and the best on this subject. You have impartially analysed the whole case and given a critical review in a lucid simple style understandable by the layman.

"Kudos to you for your unbiased exposition of a case which rocked the entire nation in recent years."

BOMBAY. **Muthappa Kalya.**

BE PATIENT

"In the March issue of 'filmindia', we are happy to read your article "Pandora's Box." Many of the unknown facts have been made clear.

"We are highly indebted to Mr. Justice Chagla for his valuable report in the midst of all threats. Let Feroze Gandhi be also thanked for the valuable services rendered by him to the nation.

"But despite all these things, with the exception of T.T.K. no one else has left the office and all are enjoying the same privileges that they used to have even before the probe by Mr. Justice Chagla.

"Let us hope the guilty ones are brought to book soon. This is the wish of the public."

NEW DELHI. **N. K. Malhotra.**

THEY DO HELP

"Accept my sincere congratulations Mr. Patel for the efficient and diligent manner in which you have dealt with the L.I.C. Scandal in your editorial of March 1958.

"The Pandora's Box" has brought to light several hidden matters as disclosed by the Chagla Commission and the debate in Parliament.

"Had Shri Nehru gone through 'filmindia' and taken heed of your warnings about Sheikh Abdullah of Kashmir and such other matters, much of what happened later could have been avoided.

"It is hoped that at least in future the editorials of "filmindia" will be given their due credit."

GUNTAKAL. **J. Chandriah.**

A COOL SEDATIVE

"You have hit the bull's-eye in suggesting Feroze Gandhi as Nehru's successor. He is young but not too young. He has dignity and that all-too-rare commodity, integrity. He is personable, though a bit standoffish. He has ability, vigour and punch. As Prime Minister, he will have a brilliant help-mate in Indira. With his wife and children, he inherits the Nehru aura. The only thing yet to be proved is whether he has stamina. But that we can know only after he is 'blooded' in high office. In the recent re-shuffle of the Cabinet, Feroze could have been entrusted with an important portfolio. Apparently, his relationship with the Prime Minister has stood in the way. Which is a pity. He is far, far above the calibre of some of the present incumbents. But perhaps the sagacious Prime Minister has another reason for excluding Feroze: lest he should be tainted with the failures of the present administration.

"It is true that Feroze hasn't got mass appeal—the Nehru touch. But to expect Nehru's successors to be of his size is stupid. Attlee was no Churchill but he ran the show pretty well. Great men can be exhausting after a time. In fact, after Nehru we need a personality of the Feroze type—quiet, sober, hard-headed and earthy. He will act as a cool sedative on the nation's nerves over-heated by the glare and splendour of Jawahar."

ERNAKULAM. **Ravindra Nath.**

DON'T BE IN A HURRY

"We have known in the past few years the astounding forecasts of yours coming true, particularly forecasts of events in Indian politics. However, in foretelling the resignation of T. T. Krishnamachari four months before the actual event, you have excelled yourself. I give below the questions and the answers you gave in the 'Editor's Mail' columns of the November and December 1957 issues of 'filmindia.'

November 1957: Q: Where is T.T.K. leading us to?

A: To his resignation!

December 1957: Q: Can you predict the future of T.T.K.?

A: He is homeward bound!

"And last month after the Chagla Inquiry, T.T.K. submitted his resignation and he has gone back to his home, Madras.

"We have seen forecasts made by astrologers like Phyruz Canteenwalla turning to nothing. How do you succeed in doing this and quite consistently too? Are you yourself an astrologer?

The old crocodiles have no place to live these days. When you go to the lakes you meet these other crocodiles now, more dangerous than the old variety. This one is called Niroo and she appears in "Jungle Princess", a thrilling adventure tale.

"The important point is that one 'cockroach' has been removed from Nehru's Cabinet. When can we expect the other 'cockroach', V. K. Krishna Menon, to go?"

NAWALAPITIYA. **S. Suntheralingam.**

IT IS UP TO THEM

"The thought 'If only my Babs were a Prime Minister!' filled my head and heart when I read your article 'The Sultan of Kashmir.' The article serves as an admonition and is consistent with an implicit solution of the complex problem of Kashmir. After all, what makes our Prime Minister so particular about the accession of Kashmir to India at the risk of the Indian purse and people? Had a man of your calibre replaced our Nehru, the problem would have since been solved, making India rich in true friends.

"I earnestly desire that your second suggestion in regard to this Kashmir problem should be supported by our Opposition Leaders and tabled in Parliament or put up before the public, ultimately making it acceptable to the Nehru Government.

"Can you not popularize widely your suggestions in the public through the dailies?"

DELHI. **Hem Raj Chaudhri.**

THE HUMAN SIDE

"Through the columns of 'filmindia', I wish to convey my thanks to Dev Anand for the courtesy and good behaviour he showed us when we dropped in at his film-sets on our recent trip to Bombay. We had gone to Filmistan Studios in order to have our first-ever look at the shooting of a film. A part of the studios had been hired over to Navketan to shoot 'Kalapani'. We met Dev accidentally in his dressing room while going round the studios. He was very busy as well as perturbed because a crucial scene was to be shot that afternoon. In spite of that, he came over to have a nice chat with us —absolute strangers—gave autographs, posed for snaps (telling me which 'angle' would give best results with the camera), invited us to watch the shooting and saw to it that we got a good look-in.

"Ordinarily, one would take all this for granted; but from what one hears of rudeness, discourteous and generally exasperating behaviour of our film-stars, it gives me pleasure to say that a top star like Dev is as yet untouched by the general trend."

NEW DELHI. **Indra Mohan Sahai.**

THE OLD HANG-OVER

"The city hotels and restaurants play instrumental music based on English songs during tea time, lunch time and dinner. May be they have the old stuff (probably now very old, say eleven years old) handy. But we have our own good and very good songs which we like to remember and which would still sound pleasant if they were played on instruments.

"The music these hotels and restaurants play becomes quite boring for there is the same monotonous repetition. May I, through your columns, suggest that the owners of the hotels and restaurants make a change now—if they have not done so far—because the English no longer attend the tea, lunch or dinner for whose benefit

Are we in Chicago? Or is this another daughter of Lana Turner threatening to murder her mother's lover? Let us hope it is a toy pistol and not a weapon of juvenile crime. In Gandhiji's non-violent India, a pistol is rather a strange toy for a child to carry. It will disturb coexistence in our homes. Let us see what Baby Naaz is about in "Lajwanti", a romantic thriller produced by De Lux Films.

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it is played and if at all they come, they should be given something indigenous to India. Won't this be a nice change-over?"

NEW DELHI. **Sushil Kumar Dhawan.**

LET CINEMAS ALONE

"There are half-a-dozen theatres in a single street called Kempegowda road in the heart of Bangalore city. And the outcome is a traffic jam (more so on Sundays) when the film fans come out of the cinema houses after the show. The plight of cine-fans vying with one another to crash the gates of cinema houses on the one side and the pedestrians crossing from one footpath to the other at the marked spaces can be better visualised than described. It is needless for me to say about cyclists, motorists and auto-ricks moving at high speed in this very area to make matters worse.

"The police are posted at strategic points to control the surging crowd but the tragedy is that they are interested in pushing their own men (and memsahibs) to one or the other theatre.

"I wonder if there are no rigid laws to interspace the theatres. How would you have manoeuvred, Mr. Patel?"

BANGALORE. **C. S. N. Murthy.**

A DIFFICULT TASK

"I often read with amusement about some film stars who complain about being mobbed by their fans and then run away for safety as if they were mere goats surrounded by hungry lions.

"Either the stars are timid and fussy or such reports have mere propaganda value. Instead of trying to hide themselves, they should come out and behave normally in the midst of admirers. Fans merely wish to see them out of curiosity. If the stars run away, they are chased. Nehru too is mobbed but instead of running away he stands in the vehicle, allows the public to see him and is admired all the more for it.

"Let the stars remember that they have to face a day when no fan of his will tarry to cast a look at him. His days as a star are numbered and he must learn to behave like a normal human being and leave an abiding impression upon his fans. Let him be normal, that is all."

NOWGONG. **Savitri Shukla.**

MESSY A.I.R.

"During the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on 20th March '58, Keskar Saheb strongly defended A.I.R.'s right to cut down music performances by 'C' class artistes on the plea that "independent programmes of longer duration by such artistes bore and scare the public." The pity is that every A.I.R. programme bores and scares the innocent listeners to such an extent that sometimes they run right into the arms of Gandhiji!

"Perhaps our learned and high-brow doctor assumes that performances of his 'A' and 'B' class artistes are so interesting, thrilling and captivating that we pray for Keskar's health and the continuance of Congress in power. On the contrary, the fact is that since Dr. Keskar took over charge of A.I.R. and like Hitler banned film songs, the people have actually forgotten the numbers of metres of A.I.R. Stations. Even a child these days is an expert in tuning to Ceylon, Lahore, Azad Kashmir, etc., for he knows his choice.

"Even the new much-boosted 'Vividh Bharati' programme is worthless. It should better be termed 'Vividh Keskari' because even the very little time allotted for film songs is crowded with old and forgotten records and the listeners' requests for the latest film songs are rejected firstly on the plea of non-availability and secondly on the so-called moral and cultural basis of selection."

"Oh, Babs! We are so fed up with Keskar's refined tastes that we don't remember exactly when last we listened to A.I.R. Therefore, 'C' class artistes boring and scaring us is out of the question."

JULLUNDUR. **Ram L. Nakra.**

OBLIGING THE SMOKERS

"It is but natural to see the board 'Smoking In Theatres Is Strictly Prohibited' under the Mysore Cinematography Act. But these rules are not being followed either by the filmgoers or the cinema owners in most of the theatres in our State, especially in Davangere. If we complain about the smoke inside the auditorium during the show to the owner or the manager, and if we protest, they ask us to go out of the theatre, of course, without refunding the amount.

"Such is the attitude of the cinema-owner and they always ask for public co-operation and sympathy. Recently I had been to a picture in one of the theatres here. That was the first day and hence there was a big rush. Davangere is now going through summer, and you can, therefore, well imagine the discomfort I had to put up with on account of smoking in the theatre. Smoking was freely allowed since owners were not for losing those smoking patrons, nor were they prepared to refund the amount to non-smokers. When will our theatres improve?"

DAVANGERE. **Y. R. Amberker.**

PROFITS WITHOUT CONSCIENCE

"The local Majestic Cinema, which is quite an old building, is deprived of up-to-date equipment. Seats are highly congested and are not properly planned, causing inconvenience to the man or woman sitting behind. There is also an insufficient number of Exhaust Fans to let out foul air with the result that it creates an unhealthy atmosphere within the theatre.

"It is not only obligatory on the part of the proprietor but also it is the duty of the Government to look after the welfare of cinegoers who contribute liberally to their prosperity through entertainment tax."

AJMER. **Karani M. B.**

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